

# THE LITERARY GAZETTE.

A Journal of Literature, Science, and Art,

AND RECORD OF UNIVERSITY, ECCLESIASTICAL, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

No. 171 (2331).—VOL. VII. NEW SERIES.] LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1861.

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## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND. QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY.

SESSION 1861-62.

On FRIDAY, the 18th of OCTOBER NEXT, an EXAMINATION will be held for the Matriculation of Students in the Faculties of ARTS, LAW, and MEDICINE, and in the Departments of CIVIL ENGINEERING and AGRICULTURE.

The Matriculation Examination for Students intending to pursue the course of study for the Diploma of Licentiate in Arts, will take place on the same day. The subjects of Examination are the same as those for the ordinary Matriculation Examination in Arts, save that Latin and Greek are not required.

An Additional Matriculation Examination for Students in the Faculty of Medicine will be held on the 24th of November.

The Examinations for Scholarships will commence on Tuesday, the 15th of October. The Council have the power of conferring at these Examinations Two Senior Scholarships of the value of £40 each, viz.:—Seven in the Faculty of Arts, Two in the Faculty of Medicine, and One in the Faculty of Law; and Forty-five Junior Scholarships, viz.:—Fifteen in Literature, and Fifteen in Science, of the value of £24 each; Six in Medicine, Three in Law, and Two in Civil Engineering, of the value of £20 each; and Four in Agriculture, of the value of £15 each.

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By Order of the President,

WILLIAM LUPTON, A.M.,

Galway, 10th July, 1861.

Registrar.

## ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.

The List of Subjects and Books for the Preliminary Examination in General Education required to be passed by Candidates for the Double Qualification in Medicine and in Surgery conferred conjointly by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and for the separate Diploma of each College—to be held on OCTOBER 26th, and on NOVEMBER 2nd, 9th, and 16th, 1861, and on FEBRUARY 1st, MAY 3rd, and AUGUST 2nd, 1862—is now ready, and may be obtained on application to the Officer of either College.

The New Regulations for PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, and for the PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS, are also now ready.

The attention of intending Students of Medicine is specially requested to the following New Regulations, in accordance with a resolution of the Medical Council, applicable to all the Royal Colleges, Universities, and Licensing Boards:—1. That all Students of Medicine must be registered. 2. That those commencing medical study after September 1861 cannot be registered until they have passed a Preliminary Examination in General Education. 3. That, except for those who may have been detained by illness or other unavoidable cause, the Registrar at all Medical Schools must be closed within fifteen days after the commencement of each Session.

ALEXANDER WOOD,  
President Royal College of Physicians.

DOUGLAS MACLAGAN,  
President Royal College of Surgeons.

Edinburgh, August, 1861.

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EXAMINATIONS FOR SCIENCE CERTIFICATES OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION.—The Annual Examination of the Department of Science and Art, for Certificates as Science Teachers, will commence at South Kensington, on MONDAY, the 4th NOVEMBER. Candidates wishing to present themselves, must forward their names to the Secretary, Science and Art Department, South Kensington, London, W., on or before the 15th October, except those coming up in Mechanical and Machine Drawing and Building Construction, who must send in their names by the 5th October.

By Order of the Committee of Council on Education.

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Solicitor and Secretary to the Trustees, St. James's Chambers, South King Street, Manchester.

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Full particulars relating to the courses and Terms of Instruction, the Classes of the several Professors, and the conditions upon which the Scholarships and Prizes founded for competition by the Students of the College may be competed for will be found in a Prospectus, which may be had from the Librarian, Mr. Nicholson, at the College, Quay Street, Manchester.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, OCT. 5, 1861.

# REVIEWS.

## MEMOIR OF SIR R. ABERCROMBY.\*

It must not be supposed from the title-page of this memoir that the subject of it was an infant Hercules, who, at the early age of eight years, had accomplished for his country feats that history will not let die, had rendered to the army services not inferior to those of any general from Marlborough to Wellington, and ere he could well have donned the coveted inexpressibles, had been dignified with the Knighthood of the Bath. Sir Ralph Abercromby was no infant-phenomenon; indeed, he was well advanced in years before his military career can be said to have commenced. It is that fact which induced the writer of this memoir to represent the events of his life as included in the brief period from 1793 to 1801. With a proper appreciation of his father's character, Lord Dunfermline preferred to give prominence only to those years during which Sir Ralph was actively serving his country and earning the fame he so dearly prized. True, he had "served as a subaltern officer in Germany, under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, at the close of the year 1758" for a short time; but, with that exception, his campaigns were limited to the period between the declaration of war by France and his glorious death at the battle of Alexandria. We are not, however, left without some information about the earlier years of so marked a man. The late Lord Dunfermline was not unmindful of what was due both to his father's memory and to public interest, and ere he retired himself from the place he had filled, not without reflecting additional lustre on his family name, in the throng of this world, took care to supply us with welcome, if somewhat scanty, information which earns for his memory our grateful respect. "In several imperfect and inaccurate notices" (we read in the first chapter) "of the life of Sir Ralph which have been published, the circumstances of his family have been misrepresented, and therefore it is necessary that they should now be correctly stated." Let us travel back, then, to the past, and halt at the era of the Restoration. Not long after this memorable period, Mr. George Abercromby of Skeith bought the estate of Tullibody, in the county of Clackmannan. He was distantly related to Sir James Abercromby, Baronet, of Birkenbog, in Banffshire, one of whose sons, Alexander to wit, he adopted as his heir. Alexander married a daughter of Mr. Duff of Braco, and on this auspicious occasion "Mr. George Abercromby made a settlement on his adopted son, and bequeathed to him the estate of Tullibody, which is now in the family of his descendants." Alexander begat George, and George begat Ralph, the hero of Aboukir. Both Alexander and George died full of years, the former in 1754 at eighty-four, the latter in 1800 at ninety-five. Ralph was born October, 1734, at Menstry, a property added by purchase to the adjoining estate of Tullibody. For his education, he was first placed under the private tutorage of a Rev. Mr. Syme, and then transferred to the school of a Mr. Moir at Alloa. Jacobite gentry, whose sentiments were

nauseous in the extreme to Ralph's progenitors, highly esteemed and patronized this school; but Mr. George Abercromby was a gentleman of singular sense, and disregarded that circumstance (seeing that the school was in other respects unexceptionable), thinking probably, and with justice, that a boy was more likely to imbibe his father's principles than his instructor's: for, indeed, there is fortunately in most cases a natural difference of opinion upon all subjects between boys and schoolmasters. At any rate, we are informed that if Mr. Moir endeavoured to imbue young Ralph Abercromby with Jacobitical sentiments, it was a wicked waste of time. How long the Anti-Jacobite remained at Alloa, we are not informed definitely; some time, the writer of this memoir says; and then he was removed to that noble foundation which is identified with the name of Arnold. At Rugby he remained until he was eighteen years of age; after which he entered the University of Edinburgh, "where he attended the moral and natural philosophy and civil law classes." A fellow-student and fellow-lodger of his during his Edinburgh career has thus written of him:—"Sir Ralph, on leaving Rugby, was manly and sensible beyond his years; of prepossessing appearance; and with polished manners. If not a hard student while attending the University of Edinburgh, he punctually performed the tasks that were required of him, and he gave much satisfaction to the professors, who regarded him as a youth of sound rather than brilliant parts, and who bid fair to obtain distinction in the pursuits of active life. He was much respected and beloved by his companions and co-rivals, who admired the soundness and comprehensiveness of his intellect, accompanied by the urbanity and sweetness of his disposition." Oxford and Cambridge men may laugh at "the tasks" so "punctually performed;" the idea of his "giving satisfaction" to the professors may have a maid-of-all-work sound to paterfamilias; and "the urbanity and sweetness of his disposition" may remind mamma of the half-yearly character sent home with Amelia Anne; but let that pass; his panegyrist simply meant to say that he was possessed of sterling qualities, and the career of Sir Ralph Abercromby showed that a panegyrist is sometimes right.

In 1754 the future hero was sent to Leipsic to study law. Lord Elgin, a school-fellow of his at Alloa, who was going to a French academy, accompanied him to Holland. The British Minister at the Hague was, at that time, Sir Joseph York, to whom they were presented; and a notion may be formed of the jealousy with which those in power watched over the youth of rank and fortune in Scotland, from the fact that Sir Joseph twitted "them with having been at a Jacobite school at Alloa." But famous as is Leipsic, and honourable no doubt as is the profession of the law, Ralph Abercromby returned to his native land little impressed with the prestige of the one, and loathing the other from the bottom of his soul. As it has been with Clive and Havelock, and many another of our most renowned generals, his gorge rose at the very idea of that state of life to which it had pleased God—or, more correctly and less impudently but not so fashionably speaking, his father—to call him. He preferred arms to the toga, and his father being, as we have before remarked, a man of sound sense, seeing that he was steadfastly purposed to wear a red coat, so far from considering it his duty to thwart, and lecture, and advise, and bully, and exasperate his son, adopted the singular course

(for a parent) of promoting "with cordiality his desire to devote himself to a military life." In March 1756, accordingly, Ralph Abercromby was gazetted to a cornetcy in the third Dragoon Guards, in which regiment he was, we believe, distinguished for the then somewhat rare possession, if we are not mistaken, amongst officers and gentlemen of "a useful and liberal education." In 1758 his regiment was sent to serve in Germany, and he there rendered himself so peculiar by "his steady attention to his duty, aided by the advantage of possessing more instruction, and a more liberal education, than most of his brother officers," that he attracted the attention "of General Sir William Pitt, to whom he was otherwise unknown, who selected him to be one of his aides-de-camp." When we recollect the case of "Dowb," and reflect how difficult it is now in these days of reform and competitive examination to win without interest the smiles of Nebuzar-adan, the captain of the guard, we can feel pretty sure that his was no ordinary merit who, in the reign of the Second George, was selected as aide-de-camp by a general to whom he was unknown. In 1760 Cornet Abercromby was promoted to a lieutenantancy; in 1762 he became captain by purchase; in 1770 he obtained his majority; and in 1773 the lieutenant-colonelcy; all this in the third Dragoon Guards, with which regiment he served from 1760 to 1773 in Ireland. In 1780 he obtained the brevet rank of colonel, and in 1781 he became colonel of the 103rd or King's Irish Infantry. The 103rd regiment was disbanded in 1783, when Sir Ralph retired on half-pay. Sir Ralph, says here the author of the memoir, as he does throughout; but we learn from the Preface that the Order of the Bath, from which he derived his title, was not conferred upon him until the 15th of July, 1795. We have now arrived at the date of American Independence, and the noble author of this memoir very pertinently remarks, "The question may reasonably be asked, How did it happen that Sir Ralph, who had expressed so ardent a desire to devote himself to a military life, and who, at an advanced age, was eager to embark in the war with France with all the zeal and energy of youth, had never courted or obtained active employment during the war with America?" We read, "The true answer is, that Sir Ralph was a sincere and honest friend of rational liberty; he sympathized with the Americans in their struggle for independence; and he ever held the moderation, the sound judgment, and the disinterested patriotism of General Washington in the highest veneration." Had he taken an active part in that war, there would have been a conflict between duty and principle; this struggle was spared to him, as he was "during the whole course of the American war employed in Ireland, in the discharge of regimental or staff duties." We think the noble author has incurred unnecessary trouble in taking upon himself to vindicate Sir Ralph against the arguments of those who would draw a parallel between the American war of Independence and the French Revolution; if there were even a great resemblance—and we can see not the slightest—there would have been just the difference between fighting your natural friend and your natural foe.

But let us hurry on to 1793, without waiting to notice at length several circumstances connected with Sir Ralph's life, to which it will be sufficient simply to allude; such as his election as M.P. for Clackmannan, his duel with Colonel Erskine on behalf of Lord Kennet, after which he "considered that the provocation given by Colonel Erskine was so unjusti-

\* Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K.B., 1793-1801. A Memoir by his Son, James Lord Dunfermline. (Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas.)

fiable that he declined to be reconciled to his opponent," his marriage with "Miss Menzies, second daughter of Mr. Menzies, of Fernton, in the county of Perth" (after her husband's glorious death, created Baroness Abercromby), and his devotion to his aged father, than which not even his character can afford a more admirable trait. From 1793, then, to 1794, he was engaged in the campaign in Flanders with the rank of Major-General and the command of a brigade. He had yet "to lay the foundation of his fame as a commander in the field," and the masterly manner in which he conducted the disastrous retreat through Holland, though it could not save our troops from sufferings hardly paralleled by the horrors of the Crimea, earned for their commander (for Sir Ralph it was who in reality commanded) a European reputation. For he was one of those rare geniuses who positively gain glory from defeat: you might say of him as the Roman poet said triumphantly of his nation:—

"Meresse profundo, pulchrior evenit;"

like the hydra, the more he was hewn the stronger he grew; seldom had any commander less success, seldom did any win a greater name. The good understanding which appears to have existed between him and Colonel (afterwards Sir Thomas) Picton, is proof, if any were wanting, that he was what Americans call "real grit." From 1795 to 1797 he held the command in the West Indies, where his most important achievement was the taking of Trinidad.

On his first voyage to the West Indies, occurred an incident which well illustrates his character for calmness under trying circumstances: the weather had been unusually severe, and his ship was in imminent peril, when "the confidential servant of Sir Ralph rushed into the cabin, where he was with Admiral Christian, and addressing him, said, 'We are going to be drowned!' 'Very well,' replied Sir Ralph, 'you go to bed.' The composure and brevity of the reply are worthy of the Iron Duke. From 1797 to 1798 he held the unenviable command in Ireland; here the undisciplined condition of the army, the troubled state of the country, the hostility of the higher classes to him, the difficulties thrown in his way by the Government, and, above all, the vacillating conduct of the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Camden, disgusted him to that degree that he was, after a few months of unutterable worry and vexation, compelled to resign his command. But so great were the proofs of ability and uprightness which he had displayed, that on his return to England he "was instantly appointed to the command of the forces in Scotland."

In 1799 he was appointed to the command of the first division of the English army, under the Duke of York, in the unhappy expedition to Holland. Sir Ralph was entirely opposed to the whole business; indeed, it was frequently his fate to be opposed to the measures of Ministers, inasmuch that he provoked from Mr. Pitt the pointed observation that "there are some people who have a pleasure in opposing whatever is proposed." But he did not the less employ all his energies and all his abilities to promote the success of whatever he was engaged in, even against his will and contrary to his advice. And his services upon the occasion of the expedition to Holland were so well appreciated at home that a peerage was offered him and declined, pecuniary rewards were tendered and refused with indignation. "He was unwilling that his name should be permanently associated with a service of which

the result had been so humiliating to the country," for it had been proposed that he should take his title from Egmont-op-Zee or Bergen; and as to his refusal of pecuniary reward, let him speak for himself:—

"It has been hinted to me that in consideration of the services I may have done in the way of my profession I am to receive a grant of Caribbean lands, or a sum of money arising from them. If it is thought that I am deserving of any mark of public favour, it is from the public alone that I can receive it. I am not a beggar or a covetous person to ask private honours or private grants. Good God, sir, what opinion should I have of myself were I to profit from the crimes and forfeitures of such a set of miscreants as the Caribs! I hope I shall trouble you no more on my services or their rewards. As long as my mind and body remain entire, I am bound to the service of my country."

In 1800 came the useless expedition against Cadiz; it puts one in mind of the men who marched up the hill and marched down again; a mighty armament went up and displayed itself to the yellow-fever-stricken inhabitants of Cadiz, and then returned to Gibraltar without taking anything—even the fever. Whose fault, if any one's, it was that no good or harm was done, let those who wish to know read this memoir and form their own opinion; it may have been Admiral Lord Keith's, but we think it was not Sir Ralph Abercromby's. And now we have arrived at the last and most notable scene in the life of him who was to close a career of honour by a death of glory. The blood-red star of the first Napoleon was already rising above the dark horizon, presaging strife on earth, ill-will towards men; and the first serious check which the devastator was destined to receive was to come from the hand of Sir Ralph Abercromby. Marengo had been fought, and Austria humbled to the dust; co-operation with her in Italy was hopeless. It was therefore decided to meet the French in Egypt, expel them thence, and force them if possible to a peace. That peace, alas! was but the sham of Amiens, but that fact does not detract from the glories of Alexandria. To the battle of Alexandria it is not too much to say England is still indebted for the rapid communication which Egypt affords her with her Eastern possessions; and the battle of Alexandria was the triumph of Abercromby. His successes had hitherto been few; the conquest of the Spanish Islands in the West Indies, and the surrender of the Dutch fleet at the Helder were about the sum of them; but his last achievement was as brilliant as any on record, and he purchased it, not too dearly in his estimation, with his life. The details of the battle we have not space to give; but we subjoin the following account of his death, coming as it does from the most authentic source:—

"It has never been ascertained at what precise time Sir Ralph received the wound which proved to be mortal. Colonel Abercromby states that his tent being at some distance from that of Sir Ralph, he did not see him when the first alarm of the French attack was given, and did not afterwards meet him until about break of day, in the rear of the reserve, when the principal attack had been made, and he then gave him orders relative to the movements of the troops. Colonel Abercromby did not afterwards see Sir Ralph until near the close of the action, when he found him in a small work about the centre of the line, where there were some guns firing on the enemy. Colonel Abercromby observed that the clothes of Sir Ralph were cut, and that there were marks of blood on them. He asked if he was wounded, and he answered, 'Yes, by a spent ball, but it gives me no uneasiness,' but he added that he felt considerable pain in his breast and side from a blow he had received from a French dragoon who

rode against him, when the cavalry broke in on the right.

"General Ludlow and Colonel Abercromby urged in the strongest manner that his wound should be examined, but he persevered in refusing, assigning as his reason, that there were many poor fellows worse wounded than he was, and that the surgeons were more usefully employed in attending to them. Sir Ralph dismounted, and walked about with apparent ease, watching earnestly the manoeuvres of the enemy. After an interval of half an hour, he complained of being very faint, and sat down on the ground, with his back to the parapet of the redoubt.

"General Ludlow then sent for one of the surgeons of the Guards, who were nearest at hand, but only a mate could be found. The mate looked at the wound, and found that the ball had entered the thigh, and Sir Ralph was again pressed to leave the field; but he would not do so until the firing had ceased, and the enemy had completely retired. As soon as the firing ceased, Sir Ralph was removed to the tent of Colonel Abercromby, where the wound was again examined by a skilful surgeon of the Guards, who, not finding the ball where he expected, advised that Sir Ralph should be carried on board a ship, to which he at once assented, and he was conveyed on board the 'Foudroyant,' Lord Keith's flag ship. Sir Ralph was placed on a bier, and an officer who was present took a soldier's blanket, and was adjusting it under his head as a pillow, when Sir Ralph asked, 'What is that you are placing under my head?' The officer replied that it was only a soldier's blanket, on which Sir Ralph said, 'Only a soldier's blanket! a soldier's blanket is of great consequence, and you must send me the name of the soldier to whom it belongs, that it may be returned to him.' This was accordingly done, and the blanket was duly restored, Sir Ralph himself having given directions to that effect.

"Sir Ralph would not allow his son to accompany him to the beach, but frequently desired him to go to General Hutchinson, and to attend to his duty. Although the ball could not be extracted, sanguine hopes of recovery were entertained. On the 26th of March the symptoms caused anxiety, but Sir Ralph rallied, and during the 27th he conversed with his son on various points connected with the public service with much composure, but in that night he became feverish, and at eleven o'clock on the night of the 28th of March he expired, without pain or suffering."

It will not be out of place to inform any whom it may concern to know that the author of this memoir was James, third son of Sir Ralph Abercromby; he was born in 1776 and died, we believe, in 1858; he was called to the Bar in 1800; was made Judge Advocate-General in 1827; was Speaker of the House of Commons from 1835 to 1839, when he resigned, and was then created Lord Dunfermline. His son, the present Lord Dunfermline, by causing the memoir to be printed and published, has conferred a benefit upon all—and they are fortunately many—who treasure the memory of distinguished men.

#### SPECULUM HUMANÆ SALVATIONIS.\*

M. BERJEAU, to whose skill and diligence we are already indebted for the elegant facsimiles of the two block-books famous among antiquaries and bibliographers—the *Biblia Pauperum* and the *Canticum Canticorum*—pursuing his labours in the same direction, has in this work given a reproduction of the most extensive of all the block-books, namely the *Speculum Humanæ Salvationis*, consisting of

\* *Speculum Humanæ Salvationis*: le plus ancien Monument de la Xylographie et de la Typographie réunies. Reproduit en facsimile, avec Introduction historique et bibliographique, par J. Ph. Berjeau. (*Speculum Humanæ Salvationis*: the Oldest Specimen of Xylography and Typography combined. Reproduced in facsimile, with an Historical and Bibliographical Introduction.) Londres: Stewart.



not less than sixty-three leaves, folio size. Each of these contains two woodcuts at the top, occupying about a third of the page, with letterpress in double columns underneath, with the exception of the first five leaves, containing the "Prohemium," and which consist of letterpress alone. When we inform our readers that each of these pages has been traced by the editor's own hand from the copy in the British Museum, they will have some idea of the labour he must have gone through in producing such a work, and perhaps begin to doubt whether such a labour be "worth the candle," forgetting for the moment that candles are not allowed in the library of the Museum. Candle-light work or lamp-light work enow, however, there is in the learned introduction which M. Berjeau has prefixed to his facsimile reproduction.

From this we perceive the importance that necessarily attaches to the present block-book above its two predecessors, and indeed all others, in the fact that it offers the earliest known example of block-printing and printing from moveable types in one and the same volume. That is to say, that in looking at the work of which this is an accurate facsimile, it is at once apparent that some of the pages of letterpress have been printed from wooden blocks and others from moveable (metal?) types; thus exhibiting at a glance the transition of the art of printing from its rudimentary to almost its perfect state. This circumstance must always be regarded as a reason for placing the *Speculum Humane Salvationis* foremost in the rank of block-books; for if viewed merely upon its artistic merits, it must yield the palm to others in the list, and notably to the *Canticum Canticorum*, the most beautiful and elegant of them all, both for design and execution. M. Berjeau treats of it as the last effort of xylography (in its decline, until revived by Albert Dürer) brought face to face with typography in its cradle; and he takes advantage of this concurrence to give a *résumé* of the different opinions current as to the origin of printing; namely of the rival schools among bibliographers, one of which claims the invention for Coster, at Haarlem, and the other for Gutenberg, at Mayence. Neither does he shirk the expression of his own opinion upon the matter at issue, as we shall presently see.

First, however, let us say a few words as to the subject of the *Speculum* itself and its supposed author. Brunet describes it as "an ascetic poem, in rhymed verse and barbarous Latinity, on Biblical subjects." This is not quite correct, according to M. Berjeau; for it can scarcely be called a poem, its Latinity is not barbarous in the rigorous sense of the word, and it is composed of lines in rhyme certainly, but without measure or rule; not of leonine verses, which rhyme not only at the end but in the middle. The first half-dozen lines of the work, after the "Prohemium," will be sufficient as a specimen:—

"Incipit Speculum humane salvationis  
In quo patet casus hominis et modus reparacionis.  
In hoc speculo potest homo considerare  
Quam ob causam Creator omnium decrevit hominem creare.  
Potest homo videre quomodo pro dyaboli fraude sit  
dampnatus,  
Et quomodo per misericordiam Dei sit reformatus."

Here it may be observed that M. Berjeau is perhaps the first bibliographer who has been at the pains to read the *Speculum* through, most of his predecessors having been deterred from the task by the difficulty in understanding the numerous contractions, which he however has succeeded in conquering, partly by the aid of manuscript copies and partly by that of the printed edition of J. Seurre (Paris, 1503, 8vo): let us add also, what he forbears to do, partly

by his own perseverance and skill. The author of the *Speculum*, he informs us, has, like the author of the *Biblia Pauperum*, endeavoured to show how the prophecies of the Old Testament, and even certain events in profane history, find their counterpart in the New Testament as symbols of our salvation. The parallelisms that he establishes are not always happy, although the intention is good and the references ingenious. But the writer can never be charged with that grossness of language and immoral imagery, which are a stain upon many of the theological works of the Middle Ages. The minute description given by him at page 61 of the Holy Sepulchre, seems not to have been borrowed from any contemporary work, and would indicate that the writer had himself made the pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Who the writer was, is the next question. There is no shadow of reason for supposing, as Van Praet does, that it was Vincent of Beauvais. Others have attributed the work to a religious association, known as the "Brothers of the Common Life," of which Gerard Groot was the founder, and which was the precursor of the Reformation in the Low Countries. But a more likely theory is that furnished to the late Mr. Sotheby by Mr. John Inglis, who is himself the fortunate owner of a magnificent copy of the *Speculum*, which he believes to have been the work of Conrad von Altzheim, a writer who flourished about the year 1370. There is mention made of him by Trithemius in his work *De Scriptoribus Ecclesiasticis*, as one who wrote many renowned works, among which is "a volume of verses and rhymes, beautifully illustrated with figures, concerning the most holy and pure Mother of God, Mary, and the redemption of the human race." This is the very work, according to Mr. Inglis, that was the original of the *Speculum* now before us. We mention this as an opinion entitled to respect,—what the Jesuits and casuists used to call a "probable opinion," but without ourselves subscribing to it.

The next question to be solved has reference to the artist or artists who made the original designs from which the woodcuts in the *Speculum* were taken. Upon this point, however, the editor appears to have no information to give us. It is our own conjecture that the designs were in all probability made many years before the engravings, while from their character we have no doubt whatever that they are the production of one or more Low Country artists. Those in the *Canticum Canticorum* have been attributed to the school of Van Eyck, and indeed are such as from their elegance and grace seem not unworthy of that great master himself; but the same high praise, as we said before, cannot be given to the figures in the *Speculum*, though in some the style of art is far from being despicable or depraved.

The next investigation must be—where, when, and by whom were the wood engravings executed, with their accompanying letterpress, both engraved and printed? And this naturally involves us in the wide discussion as to the origin of printing.

M. Berjeau enumerates four distinct editions of the *Speculum*, as follows:—1. A Latin xylographic edition, with twenty pages, in which the text is entirely xylographic. 2. A Latin edition from moveable types, in which the text is all printed. 3. A Dutch edition from a single fount, in which the moveable types are entirely from one fount. 4. A Dutch edition from two founts, in which two pages—namely pp. 49 and 60—are printed in smaller types than the body of the work, and therefore evidently from a different fount. The first-

named of these editions is the one before us, exhibiting forty pages of wood-block-printing, and sixty-three of moveable type. Who executed it perhaps involves the solution of the question, Who was the inventor of printing?

The first writer who has made mention of the *Speculum Humane Salvationis*, is the same upon whose authority the Dutch mainly rest their claim to the honour of being the discoverers of typography; namely, Adrian de Jonghe, better known by his Latin name of Junius. This writer, who was a celebrated physician of his time, was born at Hoorn in 1511, and was author of several works, enumerated by Meursius, Foppeus, and other biographers. In February, 1566, he was nominated by the States General Historiographer of Holland, and then immediately commenced the writing of his famous book entitled *Batavia*, two manuscript copies of which survive, both bearing the date of January, 1570. Its author died, however, in 1575, some years before his work was published, which, owing to the disturbed condition of the Low Countries, did not take place until the year 1588, when it issued from the press of F. Raphelengius, at Antwerp. In this is contained the often-repeated story of the invention of printing by Laurence Coster, of Haarlem, who discovered it accidentally while walking in a neighbouring wood, and amusing himself with shaping letters out of the bark of the beech-tree, from which he found he could easily take impressions with ink, only that the ink required to be of a certain oily character, which he soon learned to manufacture; that he thence advanced to the construction of metal types, which he used in printing certain books, among which is notably mentioned the *Speculum Humane Salvationis*; that, foreseeing a large profit likely to be derived from his invention, he bound all his servants to secrecy, but that one of them, John Faustus, "hero suo infidus et infastus," basely betrayed him, and one Christmas-Eve decamped with the most valuable part of his master's machinery, first to Amsterdam, afterwards to Cologne, and finally to Mayence, where he set up an establishment of his own as book printer. This story Junius professes to have heard from his own schoolmaster, Nicholas Gallus, a man of remarkable memory, though of great age, who heard it in his youth from one Cornelius, a bookbinder, who was himself in the service of Coster when the theft took place. To what acrimonious feelings has not this simple narrative given rise? It certainly has something apocryphal on the face of it. But may it not also have some basis of truth? German bibliographers generally and some Frenchmen have hitherto sought to get rid of it by treating it with ridicule. But later writers, and especially M. Bernard, whose researches as to the invention of printing are the most valuable of any we are acquainted with, mention it with greater respect; while in the work before us M. Berjeau quotes the evidence of Ulric Zell, printer of the *Cologne Chronicle* of 1499, of Mariangelo Accorso, of Jan van Zairen, Dierick Coornhert, Lodovico Guicciardini, Abraham Ortelius, George Bruin, Michael von Eytzig, Mathias Quadus, and Jean François le Petit, all more or less confirmatory of the view given that Coster was the inventor of printing. The testimony of Ulric Zell is especially worthy of notice, he being himself a disciple of Gutenberg, whom the Germans claim for the inventor. His words are: "Although this art was invented at Mayence, as we have said, according to the practice now generally adopted, still its first essay was made in Holland, upon the *Donatuses*, which were printed in that country

before this time, and with these *Donatuses* we must date the commencement of the said art." This is strong language, but still it makes no mention of Laurence Coster. The concurrent testimony of his countrymen, however, in his favour, if we once grant to Holland the priority of the discovery over Germany, must be allowed its due weight. To this it may be answered certainly that the advocates of Coster endeavour to prove too much from the narrative of Junius and those who follow in his wake. Junius says nothing as to the invention by Coster of figure-printing from wooden blocks. He only claims for him the invention of moveable types; and if his narrative be worth anything, we have to seek elsewhere for the inventor or inventors of the printing from wooden blocks. This invention, according to M. Berjeau, may have proceeded from the "Brothers of the Common Life" mentioned above, or some other or others upon whom it is now impossible to fix it with absolute certainty. Coster may have practised it, and most likely did; but if so, it was not while walking in the woods, but in his workshop, that he elaborated the art of printing with moveable types. All the block-books evidently did not issue from his press. Those with figures alone, or with a small amount of letter-press, were, in all likelihood, the production of the "Brothers" mentioned, who, finding from Coster's discovery that he had the means of producing a larger amount of letter-press in less time than it was possible for them to do, probably made over to him their wooden blocks, which he illustrated with text from moveable types, where the text had not already been supplied in block-printing, as in the example before us. This is an ingenious theory, and certainly one that would account, on reasonable grounds, for the combination of the two kinds of printing, as seen in this edition of the *Speculum*.

In all this there is nothing to detract seriously from the fame of Gutenberg, as one who brought the art of printing to a much higher state of perfection than Coster. Certainly, if he saw the *Donatuses* mentioned in the *Cologne Chronicle*, or this edition of the *Speculum*, and knew how they were produced, there was enough in them to impair his claim to independent invention. Some writers pretend that it was he himself who stole the types of Coster; and others, that he profited by the theft of another, whether Faust or some one else. "The testimony," says M. Berjeau, "of Wimpfeling, his contemporary and compatriot, so to say, is of prime importance in such a case. Gutenberg did not complete his discovery until after his return (from Strasburg) to Mayence, where he found men 'in hac arte investigandâ similiter laborantes.'" The entire subject, so far as concerns the operations of Gutenberg both at Strasburg and Mayence, is involved in a kind of mystery. There were secrets and lawsuits, and everything does not seem quite fair and above-board in his movements and doings. Still this may have proceeded from his anxiety not to suffer himself to be defrauded of his rights, whatever they may have been, in the working of the new invention. For ourselves, in the absence of further evidence to the contrary, we are inclined to take Zell's view, or that of the *Chronicle* rather which he printed, that Gutenberg perfected the art of printing at Mayence, although it was to all intents invented in a rude form previously in Holland. Coster was in all likelihood the Dutch inventor, and we have little doubt that it was from his press the edition of the *Speculum* was issued, which has given rise to so much discussion.

It remains for us only to notice the theory

of M. E. Harzen, who, in a paper contributed to the "Archiv für die Zeichnenden Künste," treats of the antiquity and origin of the early editions of the *Speculum*. In this, says M. Berjeau,

"He floats like his predecessors, between Veldener, the 'Brothers of the Common Life,' and Dirk Stuerbout, of Haarlem, stopping, however, with the last-mentioned. According to his first hypothesis, the block-books owed their origin to the 'Brothers,' who, under the direction of Gerard Groot, spread themselves, towards the end of the fourteenth century, from Deventer and Zwolle, all through the Low Countries and part of Germany. Without binding themselves by any monastic vows of celibacy or otherwise, these brothers lived in common, and occupied themselves in copying and illuminating manuscripts up to the invention of printing; then finding their industry ruined by the discovery of moveable types, they were the first to become printers themselves, chiefly at Brussels, where the first books printed by them with a date refer to the year 1476. Delpat, their historian, having said that the community at Louvain abandoned its rule and joined the Augustinians in 1477, M. Harzen concludes from it that Veldener may have been a member of that community before turning printer and agent of the faculty of Louvain, and may have received from the community the wooden blocks of the *Speculum*, which he afterwards inserted, cutting them in two, in his Dutch edition of 1483. But upon M. Ruelens' showing in the *Bibliophile Belge*, that the 'Brothers of the Common Life' at Louvain had changed their rule since 1477, and that the name of Veldener does not occur in their list of members, M. Harzen abandons his former hypothesis, for one which attributes the designs, if not the engravings of the *Biblia Pauperum*, of the *Canticum Canticorum*, and of the *Speculum*, to Dirk Stuerbout, of Haarlem, a pupil, as he considers, of Roger Van der Weiden the Elder, better known by the name of Roger of Bruges."

Regretting that we cannot follow M. Berjeau into the further wide field of investigation embraced in his able Introduction, especially that part of it which treats of the four several editions named by him of the *Speculum*, with an attempt to fix their chronological sequence, we here take our leave of the subject, congratulating him heartily on the success of his labours.

### THE POETRY OF AUBREY DE VERE.\*

THE previous literary performances of Mr. Aubrey de Vere we have had the pleasure of noticing in terms of marked commendation. (No. 2281, p. 318, ante.) The work before us strengthens our favourable opinion of the poet. "The Sisters," an exquisite Idyl, displays power and pathos, without, however, always reaching perfection. The glimpses of landscape scenery which spangle the story, are word-painted with artistic fidelity; the dialogue is elaborate without being laboured, and the whole (including a good moral) is enshrined in verse of delicate concentration, and Tennysonian harmony. The "Lines written near Shelley's House at Lerici" are marked by some of the beauties, and occasionally by the eccentricities, of him who inspired them. The following stanza, selected at random, affords a specimen of the metre and style:—

"Our warfare is in darkness. Friend for foe  
Blindly, and off with swords exchanged, we strike.  
Opinion guesses: Faith alone can know  
Where actual and illusive still are like.  
Thine was that strength which fever doth bestow;  
The madness thine of one that, fever-sick,  
Beats a sad mother in disemper'd sleep—  
Perhaps death woke thee, on her breast to weep!"

\* The *Sisters*, *Inisfail*, and other Poems. By Aubrey de Vere. (Longmans.)

We have also a poem composed at Rydal, under somewhat similar circumstances, and devoted to the eulogy of Wordsworth; and a charming sonnet thrown off in a ruined house at Baize, of which Cordelia is the inspiration and the theme. "Lines written at Ischia," "On the Apennines," "Beside the Lago Varese," "In Cumberland," "At Arona," and "In Holycross Abbey," attest not only the cosmopolitan progress of the author in search of inspiration, but evidence great poetic power, and suggest ennobling thoughts.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead  
Who never to himself hath said  
This is my own, my native land?"

would lose its sting if addressed to Mr. De Vere. Under the title of "Inisfail" he has versified the leading and most interesting events memorized in the history of Ireland, illustrated the character of the Celtic race, and chronicled their struggles for faith, freedom, and fatherland. This great and varied theme Mr. De Vere has treated with power, unity, and beauty. He has done for Ireland what Macaulay did for Rome, and Aytoun and Scott for Scotland. He has drawn from the annals of the country a long chain of sparkling and picturesque events; he has selected the characters which strikingly illustrate the magnanimity and virtue of the Irish race, and by passing them through a rich and vigorous imagination,—whose touch magically resuscitates,—has thus reproduced the life of the past. England and Spain possess a large collection of ancient ballads, illustrative of the different periods of history in which they were composed; but Ireland, although once peopled by a legion of bards, whose dignity was popularly regarded as second only to the regal, has hardly transmitted to posterity a vestige of its ancient poetic literature. With the ballads has perished the most vital part of a history admirable for the variety and pathos of its details. This want has been effectively supplied by Mr. De Vere. "Inisfail," which occupies some two hundred pages of the volume before us, may be regarded as a sort of national chronicle cast in a form partly lyrical, partly narrative, and of which the spirit is mainly dramatic; but modern political subjects, however important, are, of course, necessarily excluded. The author, in selecting the salient incidents recorded in Irish annals, has essayed to portray them in the peculiar tone and style of the bards of old; his pieces are, without doubt, singularly true to the spirit of the age, and evidence a rare faculty of combining accurate historic detail with imaginative truth. "The Bard Ethell," supposed to have been written in the thirteenth century, is one of the longest poems included in the collection headed "Inisfail." We subjoin the opening verses:—

"I am Ethell, the son of Conn;  
Here I live at the foot of the hill;  
I am clansman to Brian and servant to none;  
Whom I hated I hate, whom I loved love still.  
Blind am I. On milk I live,  
And meat (God sends it) on each Saint's Day,  
Though Donald Mac Art—may he never thrive—  
Last Shrovetide drove half my kine away!"

"At the brown hill's base, by the pale blue lake,  
I dwell, and see the things I saw;  
The heron flap heavily up from the brake,  
The crow fly homeward with twig or straw,  
The wild duck, a silver line in wake,  
Cutting the still mere to far Bunaw.  
And the things that I heard, though deaf I hear:  
From the tower in the island the feastful cheer:  
The horn from the woodlands; the plunge of the stag,  
With the loud hounds after him, down from the crag.  
Sweet is the chase; but the battle is sweeter;  
More healthful, more joyous, for true men meet!"

"There never was king, and there never will be  
In battle or banquet like Malachi!  
The Seers his reign had predicted long;  
He honour'd the bards, and gave gold for song."



If rebels arose he put out their eyes;  
If robbers plunder'd or burn'd the fane;  
He hung them in chaplets, like roses,  
That others beholding might take more pains!  
There was none to women more reverent-minded,  
For he held his mother, and Mary, dear;  
If any man wrong'd them that man he blinded  
Or straight amerced him of hand or ear.  
There was none who founded more convents—none;  
In his palace the old and the poor were fed;  
The orphan might walk, or the widow's son,  
Without groin or page to his throne or bed.

In his council he mused with great brows divine  
And eyes like the eyes of the musing kine,  
Upholding a sceptre whereon there sate,  
With her wings o'er empires a sleep-tranced Fate.  
He drained ten lakes and he built ten bridges:  
He bought a gold book for a thousand cows;  
He slew ten Princes who broke their pledges:  
With the bribed and the base he scorned to carouse.  
He was sweet and awful; through all his reign  
God gave great harvests to vale and plain:  
From his nurse's milk he was kind and brave;  
And when he went down to his well-went grave,  
Through the triumph of penance his soul uprose  
To God and the saints. Not so his foes!"

We observed, in a former notice, that Mr. De Vere's poetry was of a strongly metaphysical and often obscure character. In the volume before us, he has avoided the latter error. His thoughts flow as brightly as his language is clear. All is transparent—nothing hidden or obscure. Indeed, it seems to us that Mr. De Vere's language becomes occasionally almost too simple for poetry; although there are, doubtless, many persons who will like it all the more on that account. Thus, in "The House Norman":—

"Then with threne, and with stern lament  
For their brethren dead, the old monks made moan  
In the Convent of Kells, the first day of Lent,  
One thousand one hundred and seventy-one."

"The Malison" is better; and although extremely simple in its language, is true poetry. It winds up pleasantly:—

"But praise in the churches, and worship and honour  
To him who, betray'd and deserted, fought on!  
All praise to King Roderick, the prince of Clan Connor,  
The King of all Erin, and Cathall his son!  
May the million-voiced chant that in endless expansion  
Sweeps onward through heaven his praises prolong;  
May the heaven of heavens this night be the mansion  
Of the good king who died in the cloisters of Cong!"

Admirers of Irish Jacobite relics are familiar with "Welcome Home, welcome Home Drimmin-dhu-O," ostensibly addressed to a favourite cow, but in reality indicating King James. "The Blackbird" had a similar spirit and significance. But for more than a century previous to this date, the bards, prohibited from mentioning the name of Ireland in their lays, were driven to the alternative of singing the woes and hopes of their country in obscure poetic language, solely intelligible to the initiated. Among these mystical names we find "Roisin \* Dubh, or the Bleeding Heart," which has suggested the following little poem to Mr. De Vere:—

I.  
"O who art thou with that queenly brow  
And uncrown'd head?  
And why is the vest that binds thy breast,  
O'er the heart, blood-red?  
Like a rose-bud in June was that spot at noon,  
A rose-bud weak;  
But it deepens and grows like a July rose—  
Death-pale thy cheek!"

II.  
"The babes I fed at my foot lay dead;  
I saw them die:  
In Ramah a blast went walling past;  
It was Rachel's cry.  
But I stand sublime on the shores of Time,  
And I pour mine ode,  
As Miriam rang to the cymbals' clang,  
On the wind to God."

III.  
"Once more at my feasts my Bards and Priests  
Shall sit and eat;  
And the Shepherd whose sheep are on every steep  
Shall bless my meat!  
Oh, sweet, men say, is the song by day,  
And the feast by night;  
But on poisons I thrive, and in death survive  
Through ghostly might!"

\* Roisin: Anglice, Rose.

"The Wedding of the Clans, a Girl's Babbie," is a pleasant poetic illustration of a custom long extinct of reconciling at the hymeneal altar the feudal enmities of rival and hostile tribes.

"I go to knit two clans together;

Our clan and this new clan unseen of yore;  
Our clan fears nought! but I go, O whither?  
This day I go from my mother's door!"

"Thou redbreast sing'st the old song over,  
Though many a time thou hast sung it before;  
They never sent thee to some strange new lover:  
I sing a new song by my mother's door."

"I stepp'd from my little room down by the ladder,  
The ladder that never so shook before;  
I was sad last night;—to-day I am sadder,  
Because I go from my mother's door."

"The last snow melts upon hush and bramble;  
The gold bars shine on the forest's floor;  
Shake not, thou leaf! it is I must tremble  
Because I go from my mother's door."

"From a Spanish sailor a dagger I bought me:  
I traill'd three rose-trees our grey bawn o'er;  
The creed and my letters our old bard taught me;  
My days were sweet by my mother's door."

"O weep no more, my nurse and mother!  
My foster-sister, weep not so sore!  
You cannot come with me, fr, my brother—  
Alone I go from my mother's door."

"Farewell, my wolf hound, that slew Mac Owing  
As he caught me and far through the thickets bore;  
My heifer, Alb, in the green vale lowing,  
My cygnet's nest upon Lorna's shore!"

"He has kill'd ten chiefs, this chief that plights me;  
His hand is like that of the giant Balar:  
But I fear his kiss; and his beard affrights me,  
And the great stone dragon above his door."

"Had I daughters nine with me, they should tarry;  
They should sing old songs; they should dance at my door;  
They should grind at the quern;—no need to marry;—  
O when will this marriage day be o'er?"

"Had I buried, like Moirin, three mates already,  
I might say, 'Three husbands! then why not four?'  
But my hand is cold and my foot unsteady,  
Because I never was married before!"

We had marked for extraction many passages indicative of great imaginative and pictorial power, but our limits warn us to close. Let it suffice to say, that as compared even with the former performances of Mr. De Vere—full of promise and poetry as they admittedly were—"Inisfail" exhibits a marked advance in the author's powers.

#### GAULISH AND BRITISH COINS.\*

No one can doubt that a really sensible work devoted to tracing upon the ancient money of Gaul and Britain, the origin of many of the unclassical names that occur frequently on them, would satisfy a want, long experienced by those who have devoted much time and thought to the collection and the deciphering of these early and curious relics; for no one who has really studied these monuments will question that there are many remains still to be discovered of that great Celtic population which, before the arrival of the Romans, had extended itself over a large portion of middle and northern France, and along the shore, at least, if not far into the interior, of the opposite land of England; yet, strange to say, such a work has never yet been fairly attempted. Though something has been done towards it by some of the accomplished numismatists of France, among whom we gladly record the names of M. Duchalais and M. Lelewel, the subject has not been worked out, as we should wish to have seen it; and this, chiefly because few, if any of those who have been justly distinguished as numismatists have, at the same time, had a thorough acquaintance with the existing dialects of the great Celtic family of languages. What is really wanted is a numis-

\* Celtic Inscriptions on Gaulish and British Coins. By Beale Poste. (J. R. Smith.)

matist with the Celtic acquirements of Whitley Stokes or Zeuss, who would be able to bring a competent knowledge of the affinities of these tongues to the study of the coins. Then, and then only, might we reasonably hope that real light would be thrown on the origin of some of the strange names we meet with upon them; and that a sound basis would be provided for their classification, which has hitherto rested, perhaps too exclusively, on the few and scattered notices preserved in the classical writers.

The time is gone by for the O'Flahertys, O'Conors, and Bethams; we have had enough of the rant which substituted wild and groundless conjectures for the grave, though it may be often slender, results of sound learning; we crave something more than an unreasoning repetition of the strangest views of these ultra-Celts, enforced, too, as they are in the volume before us, in a temper of mind little enough likely to lead its possessor to scientific conclusions. For the real student will find little more than this in Mr. Poste's work, crammed as it is with a mass of crude, undigested theories, nearly all of which depend on the slenderest amount of fact, while not a few are based on readings of inscriptions, long since rejected by all numismatists, as absolutely worthless. Nor is this all: some instances occur, scattered up and down through the volume, of sheer blunders, while Mr. Poste occasionally discerns, on well-known coins, letters which no one else can see, or which are known, from other specimens, to be symbols and not letters at all. What, indeed, the reader may anticipate from the perusal of Mr. Poste's book is rendered tolerably manifest from the tone he adopts towards other and far greater writers who have had the misfortune to precede him.

Thus, speaking of certain well-known historians, who have more or less followed Camden, he says:—

"The chief endeavour of these has not been the *altum sapere*, i.e. to dig down deep into the subject, but, on the contrary, to disturb the surface as little as possible, and to avoid entangling themselves in controversies on the true character of various events. I may mention a few among them, such as Speed, Carte, Hume, Henry, Turner, Lingard, Lappenberg, and Kemble. The labours of these, as a general characteristic, have been of little benefit; indeed, they have frequently been of great disservice and detriment, in giving the weight of their names to crude, unfounded, and injudicious, though perhaps fashionable, theories of the day. New information has chiefly been wanted, and misconceptions to be removed; but the advance of these and other similar writers, notwithstanding their number, has not been considerable."

On the other hand, he lavishes much praise on Baxter and Dr. Thackeray, neither of whom, we venture to think, deserves to be mentioned in the same page with such men as Henry or Kemble; while of the "numismatic inquirers"—whose special province it would seem to be to work out the problems he has suggested for solution—and of whom some unquestionably, such as Lelewel, Duchalais, and Lagoy abroad, and Mr. Evans in our own country, have, in our judgment, done good service in the right direction,—he remarks "that they appear very frequently not to have understood and applied their own discoveries; they have not sufficiently attended to Celtic nationality and the circumstances under which the ancient British coins were struck and issued. They often endeavour to unlock the difficulties of a Celtic coinage with a Roman key, and sometimes, indeed, with a Greek key." In other words, he disparages (though professing not to do so) the

researches of the very men who have laboured most diligently in the investigation of these early coins, because they have, as a body, worked steadily on the Baconian principle of collecting *facts*, instead of enouncing vague hypotheses, and have declined to endorse with their authority the mythic narratives of the author of *Ogygia*, or even of *The Annals of the Four Masters*. We may add to this, that of his *own* researches he speaks with a confidence anything but characteristic of a true man of science; as, for instance, where—alluding to one of his speculations—he says, “I give my explanation of the legend *COM. F.* after mature deliberation, well convinced as I am that no other explanation of it will ever be given worthy of the least attention!” and again, where, speaking of the opponents of another of his theories, he remarks:—

“But there is a *reductio ad absurdum* equally flagrant in supposing the word *COMMIO* or *COMATOS* not titular, but the name of one single individual person. For instance, we should have the same *Commios* father of three different kings in the south-east of Britain, and father of a king in the same localities who lived about a century after him. The argument, then, on the case, both affirmatively and negatively, is satisfactory and conclusive; and our future Lingards and Lappenbergs, Macaulays, Thackerays, and Kembles, will be bound to use the materials here provided for them if they mean to do justice to their subject!”

So much for what any reader might anticipate for himself on a casual glance through the pages of this volume. We proceed now to point out a few only of the instances wherein Mr. Beale Poste sins equally against light and knowledge.

To begin with his account of the inscriptions on the coins of Gaul; he tells us that “the names of the chiefs are very generally titular, or partially so. We have thus *ARIVOS SANTONOS*, ‘Arivos the Santon;’ *ATISIOS REMOS*, ‘Atisios the Remian;’ and when we meet with the inscription *REX ADIETVANUS SOTTOTA*, which is the monetary style of the King of the Sotiates, it is only one of the same class, though somewhat more dilated than usual. We have another which we set side by side with it, in a simple form, *CANTORIX TVRONOS*, i.e. ‘the Turone district king,’ and other instances.” Again, he states that *KARNITOS*, *MURINOS*[s], *MTUBINUS*, mean respectively the chiefs of the Carnutes, Morini, and Mandubii; that a coin plainly enough reading *ATEULA*, ought to be read *AT VLAT* (to mean “the devotee of Vlat or Mars”); that *CINGETORIX* and *VERCINGETORIX* ought to be translated respectively “king” and “high king;” that the names (on coins) of *EPENOS*, *EPILOS*, *COMMIO*, &c., all mean “chief;” and that as *SVTICOS* is “evidently taken from the ancient word *swyddog*, a ‘magistrate or officer,’ therefore, ‘*OSVTTICOS* *RATVMACOS*’ signifies ‘the magistrate of Rotomagus,’ or Rouen—the *o* in ancient Celtic implying the definite article.” On all this, we observe that no one unwedded to the Celtic theory would see aught in such names as *SANTONOS* and *REMOS*, and the like, but the usual Greek termination *os* instead of the more usual Latin *us*; that all true deciphering of unknown inscriptions is at an end, if the student may change letters or their ordinary sequence, as Mr. Poste does when he proposes to make an imaginary *AT VLAT* out of the really existing *ATEULA*; that there is literally no authority whatever for such translations as he suggests for the names *CINGETORIX* and *VERCINGETORIX*; and that such a combination as he imagines in the name *OSVTTICOS* is not to be met with in the most barbarous dialect, even if he be correct in asserting that *o* in Celtic

stands for the definite article, or in imagining *SVTICOS* a Græcized form of the Celtic *swyddog*. Mr. Poste’s notions of etymology would be simply amusing, did they not tend to make the study of numismatics ridiculous; but in the name of all definite philology, we protest against such passages as the following, the like of which the reader will find abundantly in the volume before us. Thus, speaking of a coin of the Samnages, the inhabitants of a town dependent on Massilia, he translates the legend on it *ACTIKO* (i.e. *Ακτικο*[s]), “native magistrate.” “This,” he adds,

“Is clear, and from it we explain another coin of Gallia Narbonensis, inscribed *HPOMTAAOS* (Duchalais, p. 91, and Lelewel, p. 251) which is done in this way: *AAOS* (sic) implies ‘race,’ as in *Hermolaus*, *Donnilaus*, &c., i.e. ‘of the race of *Hermes*’ or ‘of the race of *Donnus*,’ &c. Then we must understand that the Celtic *H*, i.e. *Y*, is put for the Greek *O*; and thus we have *H-HPOMT-AAOS*, that is ‘the Roman magistrate,’ who inscribes his name, in this instance, as the striker of the coin!”

Assuredly, by such a system, anything can be made to explain anything else! The decipherer has but to forget the ordinary meaning of Greek letters, to adopt Celtic or Latin ones when he wants them, and to jumble them altogether in a single word, and then the explanation or the translation he wishes comes out as neat as may be!

In his handling of the coins of Britain, Mr. Poste displays the same qualities to which we have adverted in the case of those of Gaul, only as his range is considerably greater, his brilliant imagination has a wider field whereon to exercise itself. Thus, in commenting on the well-known inscription in Lyons, “*DEO MARTI BELUTOCADRO*,” he tells us that the last word is evidently *BEL-AT-O-CADR*, and “is to be interpreted as ‘the Lord, i.e. the Divinity, accustomed to the dire onslaught of battle,’ or in other words *Mars*”—and this, because *Bel*, *Baal*, and *Belinus*, are evidently one and the same, and, “as the name of any specific Divinity,” “is to be understood to signify, in the western parts of Europe, *Apollo*.” So, too, *BELEERICA* (the presumed ancient form of *Billericay* in Essex) is to be written *BEL-Y-RICAE*, and means “the sacred temple enclosure of *Belinus* or *Apollo* the king;”—and *BELEIRON*, the ancient name of the “Land’s-End,” is to assume the form of *BEL-Y-RION* “the land of *Belinus* the King.” We could indeed expect nothing better from a writer who declares that “the identification of the Punic or Phœnician speeches in the *Pœnulus* of *Plautus* with the modern Irish, was one of the greatest discoveries of the eighteenth century!” and who asserts this Hibernian nonsense to be “next in importance to that of the *Nineveh* marbles in the present century, or that of the decipherment of the Egyptian hieroglyphics!” (p. 144)—and who, while mourning over the fact that hostile criticism has demolished the pretensions of *King Lucius* to an authentic and still extant coinage, evidently believes from the bottom of his heart in “this ancient British King and Saint,” and in his mythical connection with the church of *Coire* in Switzerland (p. 12).

When he comes to treat of the coins of *Cunobeline*, Mr. Poste tells us “that he Latinized so much, that some of his legends might almost pass for Latin; indeed, various of them are only reclaimed for the Celtic by one or two words of the reverse” (p. 25). These words are certain modifications, such as *TASC*, *TASCI*, *TASCIO*, &c., which he persists in translating “Imperator,” “Chief or Commander,” and imagines to be connected with, if not derived from, *taoisach*, an Irish word of similar mean-

ing. He goes on to state that when we meet with the common legend *CUNOBELINI TASCIO-VANI F* (the two former words being generally more or less contracted), we are to understand them as meaning “the money of *Cunobeline*, the imperator, commander, or leader of the *Firbolgi* or *Belgæ*,” and more than this, that such legends as *TASCIO VER*, *TASCIO SEGO*, *TASCIO VRICON*, &c., mean that the towns, represented more or less by the second words, belonged to him as “Imperator.” Now, in the first place, we have not the slightest reason for supposing that *TASCIO* has any connection with the supposed Irish *taoisach*, beyond a certain similarity of sound; secondly, we think that any one meeting with such an inscription as *CUNOBELIN. TASC. F.* would naturally assume that it was in fact, what it looks most like, to be rendered *TASC. FILIUS*, agreeably with the contemporary *AUGUSTUS DIVI F*; thirdly, that Mr. Poste’s whole theory rests upon a single coin, on which all other numismatists, except himself, plainly enough read *FIL*, and not *FIR*; and, lastly, that, even if his reading be correct, it would be more sensible, in a solitary instance, to suspect an error of the engraver, than to construct a theory of wide range upon an individual specimen.

Moreover, we are bound to express our entire dissent from the idea that *F* or *FIR* can in any case be made to refer to the *Firbolgi*, or *Belgæ*; for, in the first place, *Cunobeline* never reigned over any population who could reasonably be called *Belgæ*, and, secondly, the supposition that *Firbolgi* and *Belgæ* are convertible terms, rests on one passage in the *Annals of the Four Masters*, or, rather, in Dr. O’Conor’s version of the same work; which may or may not be confirmed by more competent Irish scholars.

Having disposed of *Cunobeline*, “the Emperor of the *Firbolgi*,” Mr. Poste proceeds to discuss the coins of his sons, three of whom—*Adimius*, *Caractacus*, and *Togodabnus*, (who, for some unintelligible reason, he supposes to be the same as *Dubnovellaunos*), he asserts, struck money still extant. Of the first, he states that there are “various types apparently reading *AEDORIX*, i.e. *Aedd* the King;” and one especial one, the legend of which is imperfect, but appears “to have read [*AEDD RI*] *X OIL*, i.e. *Aedd* the sole King.” To this we have only to remark, that even if such a combination can be discovered, no living numismatist but Mr. Poste would venture to give such a translation of it; while, with regard to supposed coins of *Caractacus*, Mr. Poste’s attribution rests on a simple misreading. Thus, he finds certain coins reading *EPAT* or *EPATI*, and, inserting a *K*, which no other eyes but his own have been able to detect, and which is really nothing more but the folds of the lion’s skin on the type, he reads *KEPATI*, which, of course, must be for *Caractacus*. He does not perceive the absurdity of supposing that the son of the “Latinizing” *Cunobeline* should strike coins with a legend in Greek letters, the necessity of the theory, no doubt, in his mind, making up for the paucity of the facts.

Nor, indeed, is this all; for he speaks of another “British type inscribed *QVANGETH*, that is *Quanges* or *Cangi*, an ancient state of the island, a reading which caused some difficulty a few years since.” We should think this extremely probable, in that it is a pure concoction of Mr. Poste’s too fertile imagination. The coin in question really reads *ANTEQ*, a legend since completed from more perfect specimens to *ANTEDRIGU*[s]. Mr. Poste adds to this *qv*, having mistaken the two legs of the horse on the reverse for letters; and thereby



completes the barbarous word *QUANTO*—doubtless greatly to his own satisfaction.

But we have now probably selected enough from Mr. Poste's work to give our readers a fair notion of its numismatic or archaeological value, and of the profit the readers of it are likely to derive from its perusal; else we might call attention to many other passages in it scarcely less curious than those we have noticed. We will only remark, in conclusion, that numismatists will not estimate highly the knowledge of a writer who talks of the "Roman custom, commenced by Julius Cæsar, of exhibiting mere mortals on the circulating medium," and who declares that "Philip of Macedon was the first monarch who introduced his name on any coinage;" while every scholar will cast aside, with something like contempt, the lucubrations of an author who coolly asserts that "*TASCIOVANTIS*" (according to his theory, a Latinized Celtic word) is "the regular and proper participle of the present tense, and answers precisely to the *IMPERANTIS* of the Latins."

#### THE COURT OF SPAIN IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.\*

MR. WILLIAM STIRLING, the member for Perthshire, who is well known for his valuable collection of books on Spanish antiquities, and also by various works of his own, among others, *The Cloister Life of Charles V.*, has just published the above-named curious Memoirs, which he has dedicated to the members of the Philobiblon Society, and of which he has only printed a hundred copies for public circulation. The Marquis of Villars, by whom the Memoirs are written, was once or twice ambassador of France at the Court of Spain. He was born, according to St. Simon, in 1618, and died in 1698.

These Memoirs convey a very instructive lesson, proving, as they do, the utter and inevitable prostration of a people under a prolonged despotism. Charles II. had been a weak and sickly infant, and when he attained his majority, in 1677, the queen-mother Maria Anne of Austria, her confessor Father Nithard, and her lover Valenzuela, continued to rule the affairs of the State until the King's natural brother, Don Juan, became prime minister. But the social and financial condition of the country was at far too low an ebb for him to effect its restoration. It was during the administration of Don Juan that the Marquis of Villars arrived in Madrid, and began his personal observations, which have been preserved in the present Memoir.

The education of the King had been so neglected, that he was incapable of writing even an ordinary letter; and he was ignorant of the names and the geographical position of many of the large towns in his kingdom. The feeble character and intelligence of this monarch are here fully portrayed. One curious instance is given, in his absurd jealousy of his young Queen, whose husband he only was in name—a jealousy which was excited not by one or the other gallants of the Court, but by a miserable French mendicant, on whom the Queen bestowed alms from the door of her carriage.

"She (the Duchess of Terranova, Camerera Mayor) had imbued the mind of the King with a violent hatred against everything French, so much so as to be almost beyond belief. She sought to awaken his jealousy of the merest Frenchman who might

happen to pass under the windows of the Queen's apartments, and succeeded even in arousing his suspicions against a poor miserable idiot who presented himself at the carriage door, and to whom the Queen desired that alms should be given. The King was so highly excited at this circumstance, that if one may judge by what he said, the man narrowly escaped summary punishment. The Camerera Mayor made so much of this affair to the Queen as to oblige her to desire the Marquis of Villars to send the wretched offender immediately out of the country on pain of death."

The Emperor Charles V., and his son, Philip II., had destroyed every vestige of liberty in Spain. An excessive prodigality of long standing in the financial affairs of the kingdom had materially exhausted its resources. Ill-constructed laws, and a still worse administration of them, had seriously impeded the progress of agriculture and commerce; consequently, the sovereign of the largest empire in the world found himself exposed in his internal government and his external relations to all the indignities to which decayed grandeur is too often liable.

He was obliged to refrain from the usual stated visits to Aranjuez, owing to the difficulty of meeting the expenses of a journey of only a few miles. The royal servants resigned their liveries, and abandoned a palace where food was wanting in the racks of the horses, on the tables of the dependants, and the gentlemen attached to the Court.

"The Queen had been for upwards of six months without pin money, and had no means of paying even the debts incurred on her journey to Spain. At last an allowance of five hundred pistoles per month was allotted her, one-half of which went in gratuities and donations, such as were usually required of the Queen of Spain. The sum was little enough, considering that for six months she had been obliged to borrow money secretly to give away to the Frenchwomen of her suite, and to feed some favourite riding-horses which had accompanied her from France. She was obliged to send back to their country some of her French dependants, who were too restless and dissatisfied to accustom themselves to the solitude and the poverty of a residence in Spain. Every officer was discharged from her service, even those whose permanent attendance had been promised her at Burgos, and she was refused permission to retain a French surgeon who had purchased his situation, and had followed the Queen at his own expense. It had been a custom, never dispensed with, for the King and Queen of Spain to spend a month at Aranjuez after Easter. These journeys always took place stately since the time of Philip II. The present King, however, remained stationary at Madrid. The Ministers pretended that the small-pox had broken out in the environs of Aranjuez, and on this pretext the journey was abandoned; but the real cause was doubtless the want of funds. As the King of Spain provides no establishment or equipages for his suite, they are put to an enormous expense when they travel. The King was forced to content himself with going alone for three days to the Escorial to hunt wolves, accompanied only by the Prime Minister, a Secretary of State, an Equerry, a Gentleman of the Chamber, and a Major Domo: the monks entertained him. On the second day of his arrival he received a letter from the Queen, who sent him a tolerably handsome diamond. In return for this little act of gallantry he sent her a small golden casket, and a chaplet ornamented with small diamonds. He also wrote her a letter, in which he informed her that the wind was very high, and that he had killed six wolves."

The Elector of the small Duchy of Brandenburg audaciously seized, near the port of Ostend, a vessel belonging to the royal navy of Spain, to remunerate himself for a debt due to him from that country. The ministers who directed the affairs of this enfeebled bankrupt State were, for the most

part, needy adventurers, who only cared to enrich themselves at the expense of the exchequer, or *Grandees*, who were almost as imbecile as their master. While the soldiers, without pay, without food, were daily deserting the important fortresses on the frontier, which powerful creditors were on the watch to capture and appropriate, the Spanish ministers were quarrelling upon questions of precedence in reference to foreign ambassadors. The disorder and the ruin which surrounded the heads of the government were so desperate and so imminent, that they seemed to consider it a waste of time to endeavour to relieve the country from its difficulties. The Duke of Medina Celi, therefore, and his colleagues, after having deliberated for two whole days, on the probability of obtaining an exact report of the financial condition of the kingdom, gave up the affair as hopeless, because it would have taken two years to put any project of reform into execution. They found it a matter of impossibility to keep their word, either with the creditors or with the allies of the nation, and they made use of the most absurd pretenses to justify their want of faith. Promises or threats were the only coin available to the ministers of the crown; they were ready to offer everything and to demand everything, knowing too well by experience that they were not in a position either to accord or to enforce. Often, to avoid paying a just debt, they picked a quarrel, with the previous certainty of having to beat an ignominious retreat.

"For a year the Duke of Medina Celi had been at the head of affairs, under a young King who left everything to him, but no fruits were yet visible of his management of the State, no reform of abuses, no laws for the re-establishment of order. . . . A few days before the Prime Minister had been invested with the responsibility of office, a notice had been published of the reduction to be made in copper money; it was a necessary measure, but applied in such a manner that it only increased the evil. By this arrangement gold and silver coins lost half their value, and large sums were taken out of the country to the profit of foreigners. . . . But the entire fall in copper which took place a few months after the instalment of the Duke of Medina Celi, completed the ruin which the reduction had begun. It was said that Spain possessed fifteen millions of crowns worth of this coin, and as the King neglected to fulfil the promise which he had made at the time, of giving private individuals who held it, the full value of the metal, the large sums which were in circulation throughout the kingdom became a useless mass and a great loss to the King and to his subjects. The administrators of the public funds, who possessed nothing but copper money, found themselves insolvent, and others were reduced to the same state. . . . The whole kingdom was bankrupt. Bankers were without money, without credit to enable them to honour their bills of exchange; merchants were without the means either of paying their own debts or of collecting what was due to them. It became necessary to supply the whole body of merchants with letters of credit, first for four months and then longer; but the extensions were useless, for as no money was forthcoming, commerce always remained in the same stagnant state. While foreigners were naturally taking metal out of the country, ministers were for eight months deliberating upon what was to be done. Two very opposite results were to be seen occurring at the same time; an extraordinary dearth of money, and extravagant prices for food and merchandise: things went so far at Madrid that many persons first pawned and then sold their furniture in order to buy food. Foreigners again came in and profited; they robbed the Spaniards, who were obliged to part with their plate and precious stones, by giving them less than half the value of their treasures. All these riches went out of the country without any remedy being applied to the existent evil."

The reader may well imagine the many cu-

\* *Mémoires de la Cour d'Espagne sous le règne de Charles II.*, 1678-1682. Par le Marquis de Villars. (*Memoirs of the Court of Spain in the reign of Charles II.*) (Trübner.)

rious facts to which such a state of things would be likely to give birth, and as the Marquis of Villars only made notes for his own personal use, and not officially as Ambassador, numerous secret and circumstantial details are narrated with great *naïveté*. These Memoirs, moreover, form a work which fills a gap in the private history of the Court of Spain. The manuscript belongs to Mr. Stirling, who, in limiting the number of copies and dedicating the book to the Philobiblon Society, of which he is a member, still preserves it as a bibliographical curiosity.

#### UNIVERSITY PROFESSORSHIPS OF ENGLISH.\*

THE study of common things has not as yet, it would appear, included the Queen's English. Hence the Royal Institution has submitted to hear itself lectured upon its want of proficiency in this matter; and that erudite body has borne to be told that not only "the labouring classes" and the "rural population," but even the "middle and upper ranks," make such truculent onslaughts upon the vernacular that nothing more or less is required for the eradication of their malpractices than the appointment of a University Professor of English.

That Mr. D'Orsey's little book is a suggestive one cannot be denied. If it be the fact that we are all of us the "erring mortals" he states us to be in pronunciation, style, in a word, in everything connected with our language and literature—for he does not exempt even the most popular orators and authors of the day—if, we say, this be really the fact, it is high time for us to bestir ourselves in order to correct so great a disgrace and evil. We cannot, however, bring ourselves to believe that ignorance upon these points is so general and crass among the "middle and upper classes" as Mr. D'Orsey asserts it to be. We do not think that young men "go up" to the Universities as a rule unable to spell and write from dictation, and in the case of those who do so, we hold that this arises either from the fault of their parents or the neglect of their teachers. With that portion of Mr. D'Orsey's work which relates to "early training" and "primary" and "secondary" schools, therefore, we entirely agree. With regard to the first he asks, "Is it not true that we generally consider any one good enough to look after the children? We seem to forget that the sounds of certain letters, the choice of words, the tone, the whole speech, may in early years be so thoroughly spoiled by some country hoyden as to set at nought every endeavour to uproot the evil and implant the good." In respect to our primary schools, Mr. D'Orsey finds that "nearly all her Majesty's Inspectors represent the prevailing methods of teaching our own language as faulty in the extreme;" while in our middle class schools, he remarks "that English, though but superficially taught, is nominally a branch of study;" and in the upper class, he says that "it is theoretically and practically ignored." Nevertheless, he does "not forget the extremely valuable exercise in the general principles of language by constant translation from Greek and Latin authors into English, and by rendering portions of our great writers into the classic tongues." Now, arguing from the premises above, we maintain that exercises

and opportunities enough—especially if we take into account the "prizes for poems, essays, and declamations," mentioned by Mr. D'Orsey, and the weekly or fortnightly themes and essays which are sent in and looked over at our best schools—are generally given to young men before they go up to the Universities. If such instruction and such opportunities are not supplied to them, they certainly should be; and we think it should no more be required that our Universities should employ a professor for teaching men the ordinary branches of an English education, than that they should have a professor of Latin to teach the "as in præsentī," or of Greek to conjugate the verbs in *μὴ, λέγον, ἀκούον, κτλ.*

With regard to English Professorships in University College and King's College in London, there perhaps they may be found desirable, from the fact of many of the students adopting a lower range, so to speak, of study; whilst most of them are certainly younger than those who go to Oxford and Cambridge, and they thus in some degree fulfil the duties, if we may say so without offence, of a higher kind of school. So, also, in the Scotch and Irish Universities, English—especially with respect to its pronunciation—may be looked upon somewhat in the light of a foreign language; and professorships are no doubt necessary, inasmuch as in these cases it is as requisite to unteach bad habits as it is to teach good ones; but we repeat, that given such an amount of good early training and efficient school teaching, as should be supplied to every young man, an English Professorship for the ordinary branches of an English education, is or should be, no "essential part of a University course."

We admit indeed that a thorough knowledge of our own language is as difficult as it is rare, but we would ask whether the studies pursued at our English Universities do not especially fit a man, if anything will, for obtaining this? He may there study Latin, Greek, Anglo-Saxon, German, French, in fact every language from which our own is derived, and it will surely be his own fault if he does not, even in his leisure hours, make himself an "English classic." He has the materials at hand, and it only rests with himself to use them. In fact, even according to Mr. D'Orsey's own admission, these are precisely the studies which give a man a thorough knowledge of English, and even an English schoolmaster, such as he indicates, should himself be

"Not simply a classical scholar, but a man of thorough education, completely imbued with large views of the philosophy of speech, and acquainted not only with those modern languages only which throw light on our own, but also, and chiefly, versed in ancient Teutonic and Scandinavian lore. He should be well read in our literature, especially from the Elizabethan period to recent times. He should write the clearest, chastest English, and teach his pupils to clothe their thoughts in terse, simple, and manly prose. His own spoken language must be plain and copious, free of affectation yet scrupulously correct, his written lectures so naturally read as to sound as if spoken, his extemporaneous addresses so accurate in style as to seem precomposed."

Such a schoolmaster would indeed be a "rara avis," and Mr. D'Orsey does well to call him ideal. *A fortiori*, a University Professor should do not only all this, but

"Suggest courses of reading, and supply previous deficiencies by correcting errors in speech and writing, drilling the future barrister or legislator in accurate and fluent oratory, and training the candidate for the ministry not only to read the service in a distinct and impressive manner, but to compose and deliver sermons so as to instruct, delight, and edify the hearer."

According to this view, then, the English Professor should be a teacher of elocution as well as a man more than ordinarily well versed in the historical and philological niceties of the language. And we must say that, in part at least, Mr. D'Orsey's suggestions are well worthy of attention, although we much doubt their practicability. With regard to M.P.s and barristers, we leave them to fight their own battles. If an "honourable member" fails to interest his audience, they are not compelled to listen to him; and if a barrister should be incapable of conducting his case so as to command the attention of the court, he is soon unpleasantly reminded of the fact by the defection of his clients. With a clergyman, however, this is not the case. His congregation is forced to put up with him, whatever may be his defects of voice or delivery. Mr. D'Orsey suggests that, in order to remedy such defects, "a bishop of each diocese might appoint the best elocutionist among his clergy to give a course of clerical reading prior to each ordination; or he might require every candidate to produce a certificate of his having attended some recognized lecturer, or professor in a college or university." We cannot see, by the way, how this latter test would have the desired effect. "He might further insist on proof of the candidate's proficiency in reading the Liturgy and Lessons, in sermon-writing, and in preaching, not only from a fully written discourse, but from brief notes, *memoriter*, and extempore." Now if such a method of proceeding should secure us good readers and preachers amongst the clergy, no one will rejoice at the result more than ourselves; but the plan has already been tried by several bishops, and has failed. Let us, however, by all means have a teacher of elocution in our universities; but we fear that he must not expect any more success than those who "train gentlemen for the stage," where, in proportion to one whose voice and ear fit him for a "star" there are twenty, ay, even a hundred, who fail. Mr. D'Orsey further thinks there should be a "Government Lecturer on Education;" and, lastly, "the organization of a chartered Board of Examiners, authorized to grant diplomas or educational degrees, for the purpose of sending forth men to fill the gap that lies between the public school for the gentry and the parochial school for the peasantry; that is, to furnish certificated school-masters for all grades of middle class schools, and thus extirpate the race of unqualified teachers." To all which we devoutly say, Amen; let English be properly taught at schools, and there will be no need of a University Professor. Such gentlemen as have not received the advantages of a proper school education, may, no doubt, derive much benefit from attending the classes of Mr. D'Orsey, who is himself English lecturer at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and they will then perhaps not "go down" in that state of ignorance in which it appears so many of them "go up." In confirmation of his statements he appeals to college tutors, examiners, bishops, chaplains, and the public, and we have no doubt that his assertions are in very many instances too true; but we assert that these deficiencies arise from the want of proper scholastic training, and hold that the University is not the place to teach gentlemen the rudiments of the English tongue.

On the whole, however, Mr. D'Orsey's book is valuable as containing "aids to reflection" upon the subject of which it treats. It certainly shows us that English is not as yet properly taught in our schools; that because it is the vernacular it does not receive that due attention and cultivation generally which it ought to receive; that it is of great importance that

\* *The Study of the English Language an Essential Part of a University Course.* An Extension of a Lecture delivered at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, February 1, 1861. By Alexander J. D'Orsey, B.D. (Bell and Daldy.)



our pulpit oratory and the reading of our Liturgy should be improved; and upon each and all of these points he furnishes suggestions which may be read with advantage, and would assuredly (at any rate in a very great number of cases) prove infinitely useful if carried out into practice.

## SHORT NOTICES.

*Hide and Seek; or, the Mystery of Mary Grice.* By Wilkie Collins. (Sampson Low.) The great and startling success which attended *The Woman in White* has rendered the republication of the previous works of its author a matter of certainty, and to the generality of readers they come with all the advantages of novelty. We doubt whether, at its first production, *Hide and Seek* would find one reader where it will now find a hundred—so great is the reflection cast by the fame, singular and almost unprecedented, which the author "awoke and found" his. And yet all the qualities which distinguished the *Woman in White* may be distinctly traced in *Hide and Seek*. It has the same vices and the same merits. We find in it the same minute and detailed description of the small links which compose a chain of evidence, the same talent for investigations which would have the most legitimate sphere for its display in Scotland Yard, but yet which so thoroughly enlists the attention and absorbs the interest of the reader; there is the same scrupulous fidelity in the descriptions of the particulars or eccentricities which distinguish the characters introduced, which so often reminds us of Charles Dickens, but a subtlety in physiological investigation which the latter writer utterly lacks. There is also the same clumsy and unnatural habit of supposing that people put down in writing for any possible purpose an elaborate account of their own actions, and analysis of their own motives. This, we think, may in one single instance, as displaying a curious idiosyncrasy, be tolerated; but as a general or frequent attribute, it is entirely false to nature and inartistic. The characters in *Hide and Seek* are generally very good. There is the fine generous-hearted painter, as a model of kindly simplicity, almost worthy to stand side by side with the Vicar of Wakefield; there is the stern traveller, intolerant of the habits of civilization, and with a heart of high instincts, warped by a strong, though not unnatural desire for revenge, which has acquired the mastery over his nature; there is the impetuous and wrong-headed Zack, the unfortunate result of ultra-religious discipline on the part of his parents, whom, *faute de mieux*, we must accept as hero; then there is the invalid wife of the painter, herself a character it is pleasant to contemplate, and affording her husband an opportunity for the display of a chivalrous tenderness, which enlists our sympathy and kindest sympathies; and, lastly, there is the deaf and dumb girl. This last character is the one that will attract most attention, and is certainly the most accurately depicted of any in the volume: her beauty and gentleness, of a species that appears peculiar to those who have been thus afflicted; her fears upon being alone in the dark; her quick sympathies and apprehensions; and her demonstrative habits,—these are dwelt upon forcibly and truthfully. The details, also, of her loss of hearing by one sudden affliction, and the gradual loss of speech which supervened, are strikingly true to nature, as we have had the opportunity personally of observing. On the whole, then, we think these characters admirably designed; and the records of the loves, feuds, or struggles in which they are involved, constitutes a tale of uncommon interest.

*Specimens of a New Process of Engraving for Surface-Printing.* (London: W. J. Linton.) Mr. Linton, the well-known wood-engraver, has given in this pamphlet sundry examples of a new process of engraving, intended to supersede the use of woodcuts. This new method, according to the author's assertion, at the same time that it reproduces a more exact facsimile of the artist's original design, is considerably less expensive in production, as is shown

by a statement of the cost of some of these specimens. The author, however, beyond the information to be obtained from the name of the process (not always a safe channel in these times), has given no hint as to the method employed, or afforded to the reader any clue as to its capabilities for improvement. We do not wish any secret to be divulged; but we think a little more might have been told to enable us to form a more satisfactory judgment. We remember seeing many years ago a collection of specimens of the same kind as the present, and, if we remember rightly, of much the same character. The process was then called "Palmer's Patent Glyptography." Having heard no more of it, we suppose that, though professing numerous advantages over the old system, some impediment was found in its practice, and it sank into oblivion—probably from the inefficiency of the material. The name would seem to apply to the present method, which may or may not be this former process revived: at any rate, there is a great similarity between the two. The number of specimens in the present instance is about twenty, and sufficiently various in selection to give an idea of the present value of the new art; and, certainly, where the impression from the engraving is intended to be in simple lines of equal strength, the effect and value of the invention are conspicuous. The border of the title-page and two medallions, engraved in the style invented, we believe, by M. Collas, are very good. Where, however, the effect of the engraving depends on tone and gradation, as in the view of Rolandseck, which is a facsimile of a woodcut, or the landscape on page 11, which is a facsimile of a pen-drawing, or an etching, we cannot think the success at all complete; and such a deficiency must be perfectly apparent to such a master of his art as Mr. Linton has proved himself to be. For ordinary work, and for the illustration of cheap literature, this invention in its present stage seems to be the very thing; but in the higher class of engraving, and for the illustrations which now take so prominent a place in our modern works, and to which severe criticism is applied, we think Mr. Linton will find greater favour in his old and more familiar material.

*Popular Science Review.* (Hardwicke.) This is the first number of a new quarterly miscellany of articles on scientific subjects, edited by Mr. Samuelson, author of *The Earthworm and Housefly*, and other works on natural history. Its object apparently is the diffusion of knowledge rather than the promotion of scientific inquiry; rather the dissemination of what has already been gained in the department of natural science, than the record of contemporaneous experimentation. We can, however, scarcely form an opinion from the first number of any periodical what its aim and effect will be. The subjects handled in the number before us are very miscellaneous, embracing "Corn," by Professor Buckman, "Iron and Steel," by Professor Robert Hunt; "Artificial Light," by Professor Ansted; "The Breath of Life," by W. Crookes; and "The Lowest Forms of Life," by the Editor. They are all well written, and the illustrations are admirable, looking all the better by contrast with the mass of dirty and confused engravings with which the modern periodicals abound. In the second number we are promised a paper on the Phosphorescence of the Sea, by M. de Quatrefages, and one by Mr. G. H. Lewes, on Dr. Marshall Hall's Reflex Theory of the Nervous System.

We have received the following serials and pamphlets:—*The Museum* (Stanford); *The Ladies' Companion* (Rogerson and Tuxford); *Good Words* (Groombridge); *The Leisure Hour* (Religious Tract Society); *Temple Bar* (from the Publisher); *The St. James's Magazine* (Kent and Co.); *The Sixpenny Magazine* (Ward and Lock); *The Cosmopolitan Review* (Pitman); *The Pharmaceutical Journal* (Churchill); *The British Controversialist* (Houlston and Wright), Part I. price 8d.; *The Economic and Comprehensive Dictionary of the English Language* (Chambers); *Orley Farm* (Chapman and Hall); *Diamonds* (printed for private circulation); *Illustrated History of England*, *Illustrated Family Paper*, *Illustrated Family Bible*, *Popular Natural History*, *The Ladies' Treasury* (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin); *The Art Journal* (Virtue).

## MAGAZINES.

*Macmillan.* This is but an indifferent number of *Macmillan*. Mr. Henry Kingsley's serial story of "Ravenshoe" progresses but tardily, and scarcely sustains the promise of the previous numbers. The second instalment of Dr. Ebert's strange metaphysical essay "Good and Evil" is even more rambling and incomprehensible than its predecessor, which is saying a good deal. The Breslau Professor, we imagine, will find but few readers and fewer disciples in this matter-of-fact generation. The best features in *Macmillan* are decidedly "From London to Ballachulish and Back," a pleasant and chatty travelling sketch, and a short article on "Masters and Workmen," from the pen of the author of *Tom Brown*, embodying some sound common-sense comments on the subject of strikes. "The American Union and the Rights of the North," in the form of a letter to Mr. Edwin Chadwick from "a Lawyer of eminence in New York," is a very remarkable paper, and doubtless will be read with interest, if it be only from the fact that it may be presumed to represent in some measure the opinions of educated men the North. The tone of the article may be gathered from the following passage:—"You may rest assured that the government will now persevere to the end, and that the end will be the suppression of the rebellion. The result will be the same whether England bid us good cheer or not; but if she gives us cheering words, or especially if she be to our faults and shortcomings a little kind and tender, it will be very pleasant to us, and will not be forgotten by us when the hour of trial comes to her, as it comes to all." "A Zulu Foray," a smart graphic sketch; "The London Musical Season," by W. Pole, F.R.S., Mus. Bac. Oxon.; "Natural Science in Schools and General Education," and an able article on the "Naples Question," from the pen of Edward Dicey, the biographer of Cavour, complete the prose portion. As for Mr. Coventry Patmore's poetical contribution, we can only say that the enterprising individual who succeeds in wading through the ten pages of painful platitudes and jingling rhymes entitled "Victories of Love," is entitled to our profoundest admiration for his perseverance, if not for his poetical taste.

*Fraser.* The great attraction of *Fraser* this month is the commencement of what we presume is intended to be a more or less exhaustive account of Utilitarianism, by its illustrious modern champion, Mr. John Stuart Mill. When we have named the writer we have said that this instalment is marked by careful and laborious thought, and by an almost unrivalled breadth and command of the subject. We will not forestall the more detailed criticism which we shall have eventually to lay before our readers on the completion of this new exposition of Utilitarian doctrines—an exposition, we venture to say, which will probably wipe away the odious signification which has been commonly attached to them, and will undoubtedly be the means of converting many thoughtful persons who have been hitherto deterred from embracing Utilitarianism, because it has always been presented to them in an exaggerated or distorted shape. In the present number of *Fraser*, Mr. Mill, after some preliminary remarks, proceeds to show in his second chapter "What Utilitarianism is"—that this creed "holds that actions are right as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness, wrong as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness. By happiness is intended pleasure and the absence of pain; by unhappiness, pain and the privation of pleasure." The theory of life on which this theory of morality is grounded is "that pleasure and freedom from pain are the only things desirable as ends; and that all desirable things (which are as numerous in the Utilitarian as in any other scheme), are desirable either for the pleasure inherent in themselves, or as means to the promotion of pleasure and the prevention of pain." This formulated expression of principle is then expanded and its full significance developed, chiefly by answering the various objections which have been, or may be, made against such a creed, as being mean and grovelling, as godless, as not recognizing the revealed will of God, and the like. The author also replies to the two hostile propositions, that happiness is unattain-

able by man, and in the second place, that the only true doctrine is that of self-renunciation. However, as we have said, we have not the opportunity at present of viewing Mr. Mill's enunciation of Utilitarianism in its entirety; but we have already perhaps indicated its general bearing. We may add that the distinguishing characteristic of his Utilitarianism would seem to be that while previous upholders of the theory have dwelt upon the circumstantial advantages of their list of pleasures, Mr. Mill points out not so much their circumstantial, as their intrinsically pleasurable, consequences. For instance, they have shown that temperance is desirable as saving money, health, reputation. Mr. Mill, on the other hand, would base its desirability on the ground that its exercise left room for higher kinds of pleasure than that which intemperance conferred. Both the name of the writer, and the character of the contents, of this opening paper in *Fraser*, are so dazzling, that the other contents of the number are thrown into a somewhat dense shade. We may note, however, that A. K. H. B. contributes a paper in his usual style, "Concerning People of whom more might have been made." It has nothing in it to call for special comment. The article on "The Sunday Question" will be read with much interest by all who know the judicious liberality with which such topics are always handled in the pages of *Fraser*. It contains a short sketch of the history of Sunday-observance since the Reformation; after which, the writer offers some remarks on the present aspect of the subject. He desires neither "the laxity of the Continental Sunday, nor the severity of the Puritan Sabbath;" he does not believe "that at the present moment legislative interference, unless to a very small extent, and in very glaring cases, is possible; nor would it be desirable if it were." On the whole, the article deserves careful perusal.

*Blackwood*. The October number of *Blackwood* opens with an able paper on the American question, under the suggestive heading of "Democracy Teaching by Example." From a careful analysis of the various discordant elements in the composition of the Union, the writer clearly shows that the present crisis is the natural growth of the conflicting interests of the several component States; and finally comes to the conclusion that the system which must replace the Union will be better calculated to call forth the higher national qualities of the American race, and that thus the schism, notwithstanding its existing gloomy features, will be productive, ultimately, of good rather than evil. The moral he derives from the consideration of the question is peculiarly apposite, and teaches a valuable lesson to those politicians who seek to improve the condition of the old country by assimilating our institutions to those of America:—"Our own agitators, in their clamour for reform, are descending towards universal suffrage. Universal suffrage means the government of a numerical majority—which means oppression—which means civil war. What civil war, even in its mildest form, means, we know from the *Times* correspondent, and most heartily do we, in concluding this article, echo his wish, 'God defend us from mob law!' " "Meditations on Dyspepsia," continued from the last number, is a humorous and clever article, embodying some sound practical advice on matters gastronomic. "Chronicles of Carlingford; the Doctor's Story," is an excellent story, worthy of the palmiest days of *Blackwood*. "The Book Hunter's Club" is an interesting and gossiping paper, evidently from the same pen that contributed the article on the same subject in the July and September numbers. Under the head of "Social Science" we have a smart and graphic sketch of the doings of the British Association at Dublin. "Among the Lochs" strikes us as being somewhat prosy and span out; the same may be said of the first instalment of "Captain Clutterbuck's Champagne," which concludes the number.

*Dublin University*. This is an unusually good number of the *Dublin*. The first instalment of "The House by the Churchyard; a Souvenir of Chapelzod," a new serial tale of Irish life, is full of dash and humour, and promises to be exceedingly interesting. "The Twin Curses in American Society," albeit a somewhat dogmatic article, has many good points; slavery and Mormonism are,

in the writer's opinion, at the bottom of every form of "social evil" in America. "Salmon Fishing in the Canadian River Moisie" is a graphically-told angling reminiscence; the writer gives a marvellous account of the sport afforded by the tributaries of the St. Lawrence. "A Gossip on Eating,"—a lively and entertaining paper; the penultimate instalment of the clever story "An Only Son," by the author of "Artist and Craftsman;" and "A Stroll over Donnybrook Fair Green," an amusing sketch of the *quondam* glories of that renowned locality, constitute the chief remaining features in the number.

*Cornhill*. No. 7 of the admirable "Bird's-eye Views of Society" consists of a very fine and characteristic sketch of an auction-room, in which is proceeding a sale of pictures. The various countenances of the crowd of collectors, dealers, or idle loungers are felicitously hit off. There is a very valuable article on Physiognomy, which we might, without much risk, ascribe to the talented pen of Mr. G. H. Lewes; and one of no great value, on a subject of no great interest, viz. the first German shooting match. Mary Howitt contributes a ballad, entitled "Barbara Fleming's Fidelity," which, whatever its merits, has little of the old border ballad "ring" about it. "The Adventures of Philip on his way through the World" progress with increasing interest. "Agnes of Sorrento" progresses with interest not diminished; and the "Struggles of Brown, Jones, and Robinson" are carried on a stage, but without possessing any interest whatsoever. "Force" is an article which may be read; and the "Herring Harvest" will convey much information, doubtless of great value to any who care to acquire it. "Bab Lambert" is an amusing story of a fat, good-hearted painter of middle age, whose soft and too susceptible heart becomes inflamed with the charms of a young and coquettish school-girl; there is a good deal of humour in the sketch of the painter, and the tale is throughout pleasantly written. We would recall to the author's recollection that the fowl-house which he speaks of as celebrated in story as possessing a large hole for the exit and entrance of the hen, and a small and superfluous one for that of the chickens, is a mistake. Doubtless many such instances do occur; but the small hole is not superfluous, as any country housewife will show him in a single minute. The story is of the philosopher who made the large hole for the cat, and the small one for the kitten, and is popularly assigned, in common with many similar, to Sir Isaac Newton. Incorrectness in the details of a Joe Miller is not to be tolerated. On the whole, this number is by no means the most amusing we have read of the *Cornhill*: it will yet repay perusal.

*Art Journal*. The first engraving in the *Art Journal* for October consists of Sir David Wilkie's well-known but admirable picture, the "Defence of Saragossa." This is at once one of the best and the most familiar of Sir David's historical pictures. This is followed by an engraving of Turner's great picture of "The Shipwreck," from the National Gallery. Those who are familiar with the original know it as one of Turner's most powerful creations. The dark frowning sky above, the good ship tossed helpless and fast sinking in the leaden waves which are surging around her, the heavily laden boats crowded with shivering distracted passengers, scarce safer where they are than in the sinking vessel they have just deserted, all these are painted with immense power, and are faithfully reproduced in this excellent engraving. The third engraving is of an "Ecce Homo," one of the admirable heads of Christ by Luis Morales. This is taken from the picture in the Louvre. In the letterpress we notice Mr. Thornbury continues his "Turning-points in the Lives of Great Artists," and there is a pleasant account of the so-called Cartes-de-Visite.

## BOOKS ANNOUNCED.

Bannister (J. L.), *The Temples of the Hebrews*, post 8vo, 10s. 6d. J. Blackwood.  
Barlow (G. H.), *Manual of Practice of Medicine*, second edition, 12mo, 12s. 6d. Churchill.

Beard's *People's Dictionary of the Bible*, vol. i., new edition, 8vo, 11s. Simpkin.  
Biggs's *Revised Statute Book*, part 9, post 8vo, 2s. Waterlow.  
Bohn's *Classical Library*: Demosthenes' *Private and other Orations*, 5s.  
Bohn's *English Gentleman's Library*: Walpole's *Entire Correspondence*, vol. ix., 9s.  
Burn (R. S.), *Illustrations of Mechanical Movements and Machines*, 4to, 3s.  
Burns (J.), *Universal Love of God and Responsibility of Man*, 18mo, 1s. Houlston.  
Chain of History, part 1, Nimrod to Charlemagne, 18mo, 1s. Simpkin.  
Davidson (C.), *Precedents and Forms in Conveyancing*, vol. iii., 2 parts, royal 8vo, 50s. Maxwell.  
Dickens's *Works*, library edition, illustrated: *Old Curiosity Shop*, vol. ii., 7s. 6d.  
Dobell (H.), *Lectures on Germs and Vestiges of Disease*, 8vo, 6s. 6d. Churchill.  
Dumas's *Historical Library*: vol. xii., *Page of the Duke of Savoy*, 12mo, 2s.  
Examination of what Roman Catholics really believe, 12mo, 1s. Simpkin.  
Examination Papers of Civil Service of India, July 1861, folio, 2s. 6d. Stanford.  
Fielding (H.), *Adventures of Joseph Andrews*, new edition, 12mo, 2s. Routledge.  
Fitwylgram's *Analysis of History of England*, 12mo, 2s. 6d. Whittaker.  
Flowers of the Churchyard, a translation, 18mo, 1s. Mozley.  
Hardcastle (C.), *Constance Dale*, 2 vols., post 8vo, 21s. Newby.  
Harris (J. T.), *Episcopal Church Time Book*, 4to, 7s. 6d. Simpkin.  
Henderson's *Universal Trade Reckoner*, 18mo, 2s. 6d. Griffin.  
Holden (L.), *Manual of Dissection of Human Body*, second edition, 8vo, 16s. Churchill.  
Jesse (John H.), *Memoirs of King Richard III.* and some of his Contemporaries, 8vo, 15s. Bentley.  
Kebble (Rev. J.), *Christian Year*, seventeenth edition, 18mo, 6s. J. H. Parker.  
Kebble (Rev. J.), *Lyra Innocentium*, ninth edition, 12mo, 7s. 6d. J. H. Parker.  
Leaf (J.), *Biographic Portraits, Sketches of some Illustrious Persons*, post 8vo, 7s. 6d. J. Blackwood.  
Leary (T. H.), *Easy Latin Exercises for Beginners*, 12mo, 1s. 6d. Mozley.  
Lytton (E. B.), *Eugene Aram*, vol. ii., library edition, 12mo, 5s.  
Macmillan's *Magazine*, vol. iv., 8vo, 7s. 6d.  
Maddock (A. B.), *Medicated Inhalations in Treatment of Pulmonary Consumption*, &c., fourth edition, 8vo, 1s. Simpkin.  
Map of the British Coal Fields, 2s. 6d., case 4s. 6d. Stanford.  
Minister's *Sermons Register and Common-Place Book*, 8vo, 4s. Simpkin.  
My Daughter Marjorie (17th Century), post 8vo, 10s. 6d. Saunders and Otley.  
Ollendorff (H. G.), *New Method of Learning the French Language*, ninth edition, 12mo, 6s. 6d. Whittaker.  
Orr's *Circle of the Sciences*, new edition, vols. viii. and ix., post 8vo, 6s. each. Griffin.  
Parlour Library: Berwick (E. L.), *Queen's Dwarf*, a novel, 12mo, 2s.  
Ploughing and Sowing, by a Clergyman's Daughter, new edition, 12mo, 3s. 6d. Mozley.  
Popular Nursery Tales and Rhymes, new edition, square, 5s. Routledge.  
Punch, Re-issue, vol. viii., 4to, 5s.  
Railway Library: Griffin (G.), *Collegians*, new edition, 12mo, 1s. 6d.  
Reade (C.), *Cloister and the Hearth, a Tale of Middle Ages*, 4 vols., post 8vo, 31s. 6d. Tribner.  
Scott (G.), *Gleanings from Westminster Abbey*, 8vo, 7s. 6d. J. H. Parker.  
Scott (Sir W.), *Miscellaneous Works*, vols. v. and vi., 12mo, 3s. each.  
Shakespeare, Chambers's Household Edition, vol. iii., 3s. 6d.  
Shakespeare, Stratford edition, edited by C. Knight, vol. v., 3s. 6d. Griffin.  
Smith (J. T.), *Book for a Rainy Day*, third edition, 12mo, 3s. Bentley.  
Smollett (T.), *Adventures of Roderick Random*, 12mo, 2s. Routledge.  
Spanish Peninsula, *Sketches of its past History*, 12mo, 3s. Tract Society.  
Stokesley Secret, by Author of "Heir of Redcliffe," 18mo, 3s. 6d. Mozley.  
Tacitus, Germania and Agricola, Notes by Rev. P. Frost, 12mo, 3s. 6d. Whittaker.  
Thompson (H.), *Diseases of the Prostate, their Pathology and Treatment*, second edition, 8vo, 10s. Churchill.  
Watts's *Moral Songs* illustrated, in a packet, 1s. Tract Society.  
What's the Amount? or an Expeditions Method to find it, 18mo, 1s. Griffin.

## "DIE BLUME DER ERGEBUNG."

(From Rückert.)

I am but a lowly flower,  
That in stillness here must wait,  
Till thou comest within my bower,  
Be it early or be it late.  
Dost thou come as a sunbeam bright,  
My bosom shall open to thee;  
At thy glance I will smile with delight,  
And thy gleam shall remain with me.



Dost thou come in the dew and rain,  
I will catch thee within my cell;  
In my chalice thou shalt remain,  
And though small it may hold thee well.

Or when lightly above my head,  
On the wings of the breeze thou'st flown,  
I have bent me, and gently said,  
"Sweet Spirit, I'm all thine own."

I am but a lowly flower,  
That in stillness here must wait,  
Till thou comest within my bower,  
Be it early or be it late.

J. E. T.

INTERNATIONAL PHILANTHROPIC CON-  
GRESS OF 1862.

We have been requested to give publicity to the following communication:—It appears from papers in French, of which abstracts are subjoined, that the Fourth Session of the International Philanthropic Congress is to be held in London next year, on the occasion of the Great Exhibition. Among the noblemen and gentlemen who have expressed their concurrence are, Lord Brougham and the Council of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl Ducie, the Earl Fortescue, Lord Ebury, Lord Raynham, the Right Hon. W. Cowper, M.P., Sir Thomas Phillips, Alderman Mechi, Mr. Harry Chester, Mr. Samuel Gurney, M.P., Mr. Edwin Chadwick, C.B., Mr. Henry Roberts, Mr. George Godwin, F.R.S., Mr. T. Twining, Dr. Sutherland, F.R.S., and Dr. Southwood Smith, F.R.S.

Extract of Letter from Monsieur Ed. Dupretiaux  
to T. Twining, Esq.

"My dear Friend,—In a recent interview with the Viscount de Melun, President of the Société d'Economie Charitable, of which I am one of the Vice-Presidents, we discussed the question of the next meeting of the Congrès International de Bienfaisance, which has held its three previous meetings, at Paris in 1855, at Brussels in 1856, and at Frankfurt in 1857. After mature deliberation, we think that the Fourth Session might be convened in London in 1862, on the occasion of the International Exhibition of the Products of Industry and Art of all Nations. But it is necessary that we should obtain the co-operation either of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, or of a Special Committee of eminent and influential persons, animated by the same feelings as ourselves, and who would be disposed to act with us.

"Be pleased, therefore, to communicate these lines to the persons you may deem best qualified to aid in carrying out this project. It is closely connected with the Exhibition, where amid the results of the industry of the civilized world, the condition of those who produce these results will most naturally rise to mind. Production assuredly is an admirable thing, but the producer has also some claim to our attention and solicitude. This will not be denied in a country which stands foremost in the number and importance of its useful and charitable institutions.

"If, as we hope, our project be entertained, it will only remain to take the steps necessary to carry it out. With this object, the Committee of the Société d'Economie Charitable of Paris places itself at your disposal. If deemed necessary, it will send delegates to London, at any time specified, to arrange the mode of procedure, the constitution of the Committee entrusted with the organization of the Congress, the programme of its operations, the time of meeting, &c.

"Believe me, &c.,  
"ED. DUPRETIAX."

A circular, in the French language, of which the following is a translation, has been extensively circulated abroad:—

"Sir,—The Société d'Economie Charitable, of Paris, has entrusted to me the preliminary steps for convening the Fourth Session of the International Philanthropic Congress, in London, in 1862, on the

occasion of the Great Exhibition. Thanks to the co-operation of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, the steps taken hitherto have been completely successful, and the list of adherents already includes a considerable number of persons eminent by position and for their philanthropic sentiments. A committee of organization will be formed without delay, to fix the date and programme of the meeting, of which notice will be duly given.

"The Committee will endeavour to turn to the best account the resources which the Exhibition will offer in a benevolent point of view, by ascertaining what articles are most deserving of the attention of the Congress, and by making every necessary arrangement in order that the visits of inspection may be both easy and productive of practical results. It is, however, necessary that the members themselves should do all in their power, that while the interests of commerce and luxury are fully provided for, those of Christian charity may be adequately represented.

"I have the honour, &c.,

"T. TWINING, JUN.,

"Honorary Secretary ad interim of the International Philanthropic Congress of 1862."

## THE REPEAL OF THE PAPER DUTY.

Now that paper, duty free, has been this week in the hands of every newspaper reader, a short note of the changes which in the metropolitan journals have either taken place, or are announced, will best record the results of the remission of the tax.

In anticipation of the repeal of the paper duty, already for more than a year the readers of the *Morning Star* have had a better and a larger newspaper; and for the last few months, the tax having been doctored, the *Morning Chronicle* has been published for a penny. Most of the other changes may be said to be concurrent with the actual event. This week the *Times* was reduced to threepence, the *Morning Advertiser* follows the example; and in the provinces several dailies, like the *Leeds Mercury*, fall to a penny. The weekly papers alike make a change. The *Sunday Times*, the *Weekly Times*, *Lloyd's News*, are reduced to a penny from twopence, and a rival in the *Penny Newsman* has appeared; and of literary papers the *Athenaeum* is this day issued at threepence. Several newspapers are announced, of which the *Weekly Illustrated News*, one penny, will be produced of the same size and character as the *Illustrated Times*. The sixpenny illustrated *Queen*, a paper especially for ladies, may be rather considered as a new speculation than as connected with the repeal of the paper duties. Another paper on a somewhat novel plan, to be called *Public Opinion*, price twopence, will appear, and promises to give all sides of every subject, a method which will probably demand a very wide sheet. This idea was for some time successfully carried out by the *Statesman*, which, although it died, was a very useful paper, with articles reprinted from the various leading journals, besides original matter. There are two new weekly magazines: the *Quiver*, a religious work with interesting stories and biographies more scrupulously selected than usual, is the largest yet published for the price; whilst the *Dublin Journal*, with a tale by Carleton, clever sketches, and good artistic illustrations and initial letters, is the best, as regards paper and quality of matter, of all the penny papers. *Fun*, a comic weekly penny journal, is on good paper and excellently printed; and if the jokes and cuts are as good as they are promised to be (but are not, as yet) there will be nothing cheaper. We understand that Mr. H. J. Byron, the author of the favourite Strand burlesques, is the editor.

The *Sporting Life*, bi-weekly, and the *Sporting Herald*, doubtless find many penny purchasers who heretofore "loafed" about public-houses to get a glance at *Bell's Life*, much information in which, these penny publications strive to anticipate; but as a gentleman's paper and an authority on sporting events the vigilance of *Nunquam Dormio* will doubtless always be appreciated.

Nothing is more certain than that the present

changes will compel all the higher-priced papers either to come down to the penny, or devote themselves to special interests either political, literary, scientific, or commercial. News must and will be purchasable at a cheap rate, and that of the best and earliest character; but papers which rather seek to influence opinion, have but to secure the best writers, to retain and increase their subscribers.

The most marked feature, however, remains to be noticed, as the result of the remission of the Paper-duty: this is the issue of halfpenny papers and magazines. In this the public must not be deluded: they do not get for a halfpenny as much as they have for some time had given them for a penny; in fact, they only get just half as much—the quality is the same, the quantity just about half; indeed, some proprietors have simply divided the matter which went to make up a penny journal, and now publish the sections under different halfpenny titles. The public are neither losers nor gainers by the metamorphose. The following list is of those we have seen:—*The London and Country News* and *The Halfpenny Ledger*, newspapers; *The Guide*; *The London Herald*; *The Welcome Guest*, reduced from twopence, and the contents proportionately one-fourth; *The Halfpenny Journal*; *The Halfpenny Miscellany*; *The Cottage Journal*.

## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

FLORENCE, September 28.

Of course all our Florentine world, very much increased beyond its usual size, is talking and thinking of nothing save the Exposition. Jurymen, who bustle about with some six inches of blue and silver ribbon, having the letter "G" for *Giurato*, on the breasts of their coats, and bundles of papers and note-books sticking out of their pockets, are the leading members of society for the nonce. And to "be like the time" my letter should take note only of the comparative merits of the artistic and industrial contributions of a hundred rival cities.

But inasmuch as the show is not yet complete, although much has been done towards completing it since I last wrote, and every day still adds some feature of interest; I will leave the remarks I have yet to make on the most important contents of the building to a future occasion, for the sake of relating a curious incident which has given rise to a project of much promise.

Years ago, in the old time before 1848, which in Italy at the present day sounds very much like "In the days before the flood,"—in these far-distant days Signor Paolo Emiliano Giudici, who has since that time made himself a European reputation by his *History of Italian Literature* and his *History of the Municipalities of Italy*, and as the translator of Macaulay's great work, had conceived the idea of an extended work on Michael Angelo, embodying a large number of important documents and inedited letters and other writings of the great Florentine, which he had had the good fortune to obtain access to. His own part of the work was in an almost completed state, when the '48 and all the confusions and convulsions and troubles which it brought with it and after it, came upon Italy. In the disorder of that disastrous time, Signor Giudici by some means or other lost the materials for his proposed work, consisting of three considerable packets of papers, two of them being his own composition, and the other copies of the precious documents on which his work was founded. The Professor—he is Professor of Aesthetics in the "Accademia delle Belle Arti" of Florence now, but was not so then—the Professor that was to be hereafter grieved over his loss, but never dreamed of recovering the papers. Mark, however, the "sweet uses" of tobacco-smoking! A few days ago, on going into the shop of one of the government dispensers of the shocking bad cigars,—which show that a constitutional government does things which it has no business to meddle with, quite as badly as a paternal despotism,—to procure his daily dose, the black sticks, which are here called cigars, were handed to him wrapped in a paper drawn from one of the long-lost bundles of his work on Michael Angelo. A few anxious inquiries shortly elicited the fact that the precious bundles had only

that very morning been brought on to the counter for use, and that they were still entire; and the delighted Professor was able to carry off his strangely-recovered treasures at the price of the few pence which the tobacconist had paid for them per pound as waste-paper. Important papers are, we all know, very frequently found in the nick of time at trunk-makers' and chandlers' in the pages of novels, but here is a genuine instance of the occurrence in sober reality.

The other bundle, containing the copies of the documents, was not forthcoming. But he very readily consoled himself for its loss, in rejoicing over the rare good fortune that had befallen him; since the other papers were recoverable from the same sources from which they had been originally taken.

It is now proposed that the recovered work should be printed by our active and enterprising publisher, Le Monnier, in a style of great magnificence. The idea is to produce a folio volume, illustrated by photographs and facsimiles from the pictures, drawings, and writings of the immortal Florentine, as a specimen, seasonable at this time of industrial rivalry, of what Florence can do in typography and its kindred arts. Such a volume would form a very appropriate and interesting memorial of the Florence Exposition of the national industry.

All those remains and memorials of the great artist which, as has been well known for many years, existed in the ancestral house of the Buonarroti family in the Via Guibellina, are now accessible to the public; and as the singular circumstances under which they have become so are not generally known, it may be interesting to English readers to hear them.

A few years ago the last lineal descendant of Michael Angelo Buonarroti died in the house in which his great ancestor lived, and which has ever since been in the possession of his descendants. The old gentleman, who was for many years a Judge of one of the Florentine tribunals, and ultimately Minister of Justice under the late Government, was wont, very courteously, to show the Michael-Angelesque treasures and memorials, of which his house was a regular museum, to visitors in any way recommended to him; but all applications for free permission to examine the large quantities of manuscripts were always met, during a long course of years, by the declaration, that he was himself preparing to publish a complete catalogue and account of them. The years ran on, however, and at length the old cavaliere died; leaving the long-promised work in the stage of "thinking about it," beyond which it had in all probability never advanced.

But on his death-bed the last of the Buonarroti, considering that the persons who were his natural heirs would assuredly value the museum of Michael-Angelesque memorials only for what they could be sold for, that they would all be dispersed, and the major part of them in all probability lost to Florence for ever, determined to prevent such an act of Vandalism; so he executed a will bequeathing the whole collection of statues, pictures, drawings, papers, &c., to the *Comunità*—the corporation, as we should say—of Florence.

Now the Tuscan law requires for the validity of a will that the public notary, who witnesses it, should be in the room in which the testator writes or dictates it during the whole of the time so occupied. But it so happened that, it being summer time and hot weather, the dying man complained of being much oppressed by the heat and by the number of persons in his chamber. There were a pair of folding doors opening into an adjoining room; these were thrown open, and the notary, thinking that on whichever side of the opening of these doors he might stand he was equally in the presence of the testator, and anxious to comply with the dying man's desire, stepped to the other side of the open doorway with others of those who were present.

The will was duly executed, and the old Cavaliere died; but the heirs having got hold of the fact of the notary having thus crossed the threshold of the doorway, put in an opposition to the will on that ground. The case was argued at length by some of the first advocates of Florence and was decided against the *Comunità*; whereupon that sapient body put the notary into prison! But as this step

availed nothing towards recovering the treasure they had lost, they eventually adopted the more sensible one of entering into treaty for compromise with the heirs. And the result was, that by the sacrifice of a considerable sum of money, they secured the museum; from that time, three or four years since, till a few days ago the public heard no more of its acquisition. But as it behoves Florence to display her every attraction on the great occasion of the Exposition, the Michael-Angelesque house and museum (for the house also made a part of the city's bargain) have been recently opened to the public.

The whole of the first floor, consisting of many rooms, is devoted to the purposes of this small but highly interesting and special museum.

Several of the rooms contain merely a miscellaneous collection, accumulated by various members of the family, of morsels of art in very various kinds—Etruscan pottery and marbles, fragments of Greek and Roman marbles, Majolica and Robbia ware, pictures, &c.

A long gallery, entirely filled by a series of pictures of various scenes of the great artist's life by different painters, contains also a large oil-picture by him—a Virgin and Child and attendant Saints, in which the type of the Virgin and the composition of the picture are singular. The Holy Child is on the ground between the feet of the Virgin Mother, whose lineaments are rather those of a Juno, or Roman matron, than such as have been usually selected to embody the idea of the Virgin.

There is also in this room a Battle of the Giants by his own hand, a basso-rilievo of about two feet long by some eighteen inches high.

In the room called that of the Family History, being filled with fresco-paintings of incidents in the family history both before and after the time of Michael Angelo, there are several drawings of his, all more or less interesting and worthy of the attention of art-students. In a small cabinet at the back of the house, there are also a number of drawings by the hand of the master, of which two are especially note-worthy: one, the first idea of the great work in the Sistine Chapel at Rome; the other, a highly finished and very beautiful head of Cleopatra, in red chalk.

In a room called the Chapel, there is a very interesting Deposition from the Cross, in plaster, by him, about one foot high by eight inches wide; a "Pieta," basso-rilievo in marble, the treatment of which is peculiar and highly interesting; and a design on paper for the front of the still frontless church of San Lorenzo.

The "Study" contains several of his models and first thoughts in clay and wax of the highest interest; especially one charming figure in wax about eighteen inches in height, supposed to be the first idea of the magnificent David in front of the "Palazzo della Signoria." The arms are wanting. In this room, also, there are three autograph letters, in the well-known, strong, square hand-writing. One of them is signed, "Michel Agnolo Buonarroti," and is especially interesting as being a portion of the last letter he ever wrote, at more than ninety years old. He says in it, that as he has had some difficulty in writing it (though the writing has all the appearance of being wonderfully firm), he shall in future cause his letters to be written for him, and sign them himself. There are also several fragments of poetry of his autograph, one in huge red-chalk letters.

But perhaps the most interesting bit of the whole exhibition is the little cabinet in which he used to work. It is very, very small, about seven feet long by not more than three and a half wide. There is just room for a wooden bench fixed against one of the longer walls, and a narrow wooden shelf-table in front of it. The space is so scarce, that a portion of this little table—some three or four inches of it—is made to fold up on a hinge, so as to facilitate the ingress and egress of the occupant from the seat. The little closet is lighted by a miniature window at one end of it, looking into the garden. The only memorial preserved in this queer little nook, consists of two of the great artist's walking-sticks suspended on the wall. They are both exactly alike, of turned and polished walnut-wood, with a handle formed by a cross bit of the same, crutch-fashion, and furnished with a large and elaborate ferule,

divided into five or six separate prongs at the end.

I strongly advise any visitor to the City of Flowers, to contrive to find an hour to devote to the house of "Michel Agnolo," in the "Via Guibellina." T. A. T.

DRESDEN, September.

In all Catholic churches on the Continent perfect liberty of action, on the part of those who come to worship, is a feature so striking and so characteristic that any one who only occasionally is present there cannot fail to remark it. Whether there be service or not, persons of all ranks and of all ages are incessantly coming and going. They kneel at this altar or that, to pray; they sit here or there, reading some appointed meditation. But even during the mass or the sermon, those who have heard a mass at a side altar leave the church while the priest is still officiating at the high altar; or others come in in the middle, kneel just where they find a vacant spot, and are in time to be present at an elevation of the host. There is no beadle to keep an eye on the children, no pew-opener to usher the standers-about to a place; no one, in short, to superintend and be answerable for due decorum being observed. For it is pre-supposed that whoever enters there will be decorous; and as churches are built for the use of the community, these are left open early and late, in order that whoever feels the want of communion with God, may be able to come thither and find strength or seek consolation. The absence of all formality in the congregation is, I say, so marked in Catholic countries that a contrary state of things would immediately strike one as something peculiar and extraordinary. In the church to which the royal family go here this, however, is the case, and there are attendant circumstances which to me are not only disagreeable, but positively offensive. This being what we should call "the royal chapel," there are two servants in royal livery in the body of the church with long bearded maces, and these patrol during the whole service without one moment's interruption. It seems to be the arrangement in this particular place of worship that a clear space or pathway of a certain width must be kept between the pillars of the aisles and the ends of the seats in the middle of the building, whilst the central part is to be kept free of all who may choose to stand. Now, though it is very well to keep the way clear leading to the steps of the Mansion House when the Queen goes to visit the Lord Mayor, and to maintain a free passage at the entrance of the Palace when there is a drawing-room, still the necessity for such broad free way in different parts of a church where every one is standing quiet is, as it would seem, less obvious, and consequently less intelligible to the generality of persons. Hence, on a Sunday, as people enter the church, they take their place in the side aisle, open their prayer-books, and are at once occupied with their devotions. But before they can have got through the first lines of the prayer, one of the liveried attendants comes rushing—literally rushing—from the further end of the building up to some unfortunate last comer, and, waving his arm, makes the crowd fall back six inches, so that the line of pathway to be kept at that spot may be perfectly straight and unbroken. You fall back a step; for, seeing there is plenty of room for people to pass, having no notion of what Saxon pedantry is capable, you think that sufficient. But the official is of a different opinion.

The line from column to column must be as straight as a clipped hedge; and if he sees but a shoulder or a toe projecting beyond it, back you must still go, that the straight line may be preserved. Many persons are not aware of this ridiculous requirement; others, occupied with their devotions, forget it, and in turning round or otherwise changing their position, overstep somewhat the imagined boundary line. As in so large a congregation this happens at every moment, the two men are running from place to place the whole time that divine service lasts. They look across from one end of the church to the other, to discover some non-observer of their law; they watch the new comer enter, and, with their eyes, follow him to the spot where he takes his stand, and remarking that by his presence he has broken the favourite straight line,



down they pounce upon him to make him change position. But at the instant that one delinquent is corrected, they perceive out yonder another offender, and off they hie to establish order in that quarter; and so it goes on unceasingly till the congregation quits the church. You see the great silver mace flying about in all directions; now it is going down that aisle at a rare rate; then it is all of a sudden on the opposite side, and now it is at the doorway, on the watch for new victims. There is a continual bustle, continual movement, and rushing to and fro. It is more like being on a race-course immediately after the start, or when the horses are just coming in, than in a temple where people are assembled to worship. I have never yet, in any country, seen such unbecoming behaviour.

In this church, too, the men are on one side and the women on the other. On Sunday a gentleman and his wife entered, and took a seat beside each other on a vacant bench. They were evidently foreigners, and I believe they were English people. Hardly had they begun their prayers, when the man with the mace was at the gentleman's side, telling him something. But as he evidently did not understand the language, he took no heed, and fixed his attention on his book. The beadle then gave him a nudge with his elbow, and pointed to the other side of the church. But the stranger, imagining, I think, that the man was offering him a better place, nodded, and seemed to wish to make him understand he was quite satisfied to remain where he was. Not so the official, he continued talking and gesticulating; and at last the gentleman, losing patience at being thus interrupted in his devotions, signed to him to go and leave him in peace. But he of the mace was not thus to be got rid of. He kept on joggling the stranger's elbow, and signing to him to move. The gentleman bore this for some time; but at last human patience was exhausted, and, taking up his hat, quitted the church with his wife on his arm.

The same pedantry shows itself in various ways; the same exaggerated importance attached to insignificant trifles. An incident most characteristic of the people here occurred to myself a few days ago, and is quite in keeping with the strictness of the above-mentioned beadle in maintaining an unbroken line among the standing part of one congregation. In passing the bridge over the Elbe, the arrangement has been made that the comers keep on the pavement which is on one side, and the goers on the other. Not knowing this, I was strolling along on the wrong side, enjoying the view, when a passer from the other side ran across, evidently with the most friendly intent, and exclaimed, "What are you doing? Why, you are on the wrong side!" It was not the words, but the manner of utterance, which made the thing so supremely ridiculous. In his tone and expression, both of voice and countenance, there was alarm, as if some fearful tragedy were impending. He was evidently horrified at my thus shamelessly breaking, and calmly and deliberately too, a law that the whole city religiously respected. It was clear to me that in his eyes I was committing an atrocity; and as it is certain that he only gave me the warning from a kindly feeling, I only wonder that he did not seize my arm, and drag me quickly across, in order to save me from the consequences of having broken so vitally important a regulation.

Being in the picture gallery, and finding it rather warm, I took off my paletôt and carried it on my arm. But this was not permitted. I was obliged either to put it on again or leave the gallery. There may be some good reason for this, though I do not see the drift of the rule.

The difference in religion between the sovereign and the people is the cause of a want of sympathy between the two. Indeed, it is something more than this; for there is anything but a kindly feeling on the part of the Dresdeners towards the royal family. They take no notice of them when they pass as they drive through the streets; not an individual touches his hat to the King or Queen, and as little attention is paid to either as to the brewer who drives by seated on his dray. The people dislike them, and they openly show their dislike. And yet both King and Queen are simple in their manners, and amiable in their behaviour. The estrangement is caused, I believe, entirely by the circum-

stance of a difference of creed; and it certainly is unfortunate when this exists.

But I will now turn to a subject far more interesting, and which at all events is more pleasing, inasmuch as all polemical matter is foreign to it. The collection to which I am about to allude will be unknown to most travellers, as it was until lately to myself; but I am sure that any one who feels an interest in such things will be as courteously received, and be shown all the curious objects here brought together from the very ends of the earth, as readily as I was. The museum in question has been formed by Professor Klemm, and is intended to illustrate the progress of civilization as shown in the development of the utensils, dress, and ornaments among different people. But the principal intention of the collector was, I believe, to prove that originally every instrument, as well as every article used as an adornment, was copied from nature, from some natural production; or, rather, that the thing itself having been already formed—ready made, as it were, by nature herself—man, as yet rude and uncultivated, took the natural product and employed it for the purpose to which it seemed especially adapted. It will, without doubt, often-times have struck the careful observer, that the form of many an object to be found in our households is very like some bone of an animal, a gnarled vegetable growth, the rounded pebble, or sharp-edged flint. But he will hardly have examined further into the matter, and have followed out the suggestion that nature seemed to have given him. He will rather have looked on the circumstance as a chance incident, and not have searched in various directions to discover if anything like a law were to be discerned, showing a distinctly traceable connection between the original object and its counterpart. This, however, is just what Professor Klemm has done. He has got together from all quarters of the globe natural productions resembling tools and instruments and ornaments formed by the ingenuity of man. There are knives formed of long blades of flint, and other hatchet-like pieces of the same stone, which, in both instances, are as like the modern manufactured instrument as is well possible. In support of the theory above alluded to, that the first hint for arms, instruments, &c., was invariably taken from nature herself, there is, among many other curious specimens, part of the fibrous root of a tree, which having twined round and held fast a pointed stone, has thus formed something like a small battle-axe. Others again have a knot at each extremity of a piece of tough, fibrous wood, presenting a perfect so-called self-defender, exactly as we buy it in the shops. Again, there is a collection of drinking-cups brought together from every corner of the habitable globe, from those made of the rind or shell of fruits up to the porcelain ware of the modern tea-table. And, indeed, it is often curious to observe in how small a degree the shape of some article manufactured by a civilized European nation differs from the utensil employed for a similar purpose, made perhaps by some tribe in a primitive savage state. Of necklaces there is a large collection. There are some formed of round berries strung together; others, of longer pieces of the hard shining stalks of certain grasses, exact counterparts of the glass beads made at this day at Venice. Again, it is curious to see how the manufactures of Europe have found their way into the households of the Indian or the South Sea Islander; and how the most prized valuable of the chief or the chieftain's wife is found on examination to be some trumpery or fragment of metal or painted earthenware which no European would take the trouble to pick up. Thus a principal part of a potent talisman obtained from an American tribe was neither more nor less than the ferule of an old umbrella. Among the woven and painted garments many are magnificent. There are dresses of tribes and people without end; some of course wholly different from each other, others very like except in material. Indeed, as a Comparative Museum, if I may use the term, it is interesting in the highest degree. And as we compare the appliances of the civilized European and our savage, so too we may trace a resemblance between the devices employed by both for marking distinction and imparting honour. Thus we see the feathered head-dress of the savage chief repeated in the Prince of Wales's plume; the

glass button of the Chinese mandarin in the metal buttons of the gentleman of the chamber; the necklace of lions' teeth or bones of the brave hunter or warrior in the collar of knighthood and of persons in authority. The untamed lion's hide or the beautifully prepared buffalo robe we find in a modified form in the coronation robes of our kings, and in the mantle of our English dukes.

But it is unnecessary to specify further. Whoever visits the collection will trace similar resemblances, and it is much more pleasant to make such discoveries oneself than to be helped to them by another.

## SCIENCE.

*On the Phenomena which may be traced to the presence of a Medium pervading Space.* By Daniel Vaughan. (*Philosophical Magazine, Supplement, June, 1861.*)

### FIRST NOTICE.

AMONGST the most curious and widely-spread of the hypotheses which have floated down to us from the early days of Natural Philosophy, none is more remarkable than that which carries with it the idea of the existence of a pervading medium, or *Æther*, extending from world to world and from sun to sun, filling the whole universe and connecting its varied parts with one tie, "indissolubly bound."

It would be difficult to trace the origin of the hypothesis we have named, even were the writings of those philosophers, such as Empedocles, who espoused this belief, perfect in our hands. For how far back soever we turn, we discover some evidences direct or indirect of the conception. The hypothesis itself may be traced, by the word which typifies it, back to Phœnician speech. *Aîrth*, the sun, and *Ur*, fire—such the origin, or at least one origin, of the term. It may be followed to the *aîthp* of the Ionic philosophy of Anaxagoras and Empedocles, who, as Humboldt remarks, separated this *Æther* altogether from the actual denser and vapour-charged air (*âîp*) which surrounds the earth and probably extends as far as the moon, and defined it the fiery, brightly beaming pure air of great subtlety and of eternal serenity. It may be traced yet again in the *Akâsa* of the philosophers of ancient India, the luminous and the shining, the ethereal essence pervading and filling the universe. It may be traced in the *πνεῦμα* of Hippocrates, who makes it, as a universal spirit, fill all the universe, guiding the sun, moon, and stars in their courses, causing winter and summer, giving life to men and all animals, governing motion, determining growth, and superintending life altogether, by laws immutable as fate.

The hypothesis may be traced again in mythology, and in various religious forms and phases of thought common to different periods and to different nations. The Egyptians personified in the celestial *Æther* him who was in later days better known as Jove.

The idea may be traced in like manner through poetry and poetical similes, for poetry is natural philosophy transformed into art. Thus Virgil, singing

"*Tum Pater omnipotens fecundis imbribus Æther  
Conjugis in gremium late descendit et omnes  
Magnus alit, magno commixtus corpore fetus,*"

gives to the omnipotent Father himself figurative expression from the surrounding æthereal air; while under the term "the music of the spheres" we have embodied over and over again the idea of a vibrating medium through which the chasing worlds make music in their course or sing together. Who, as this subject

is touched, does not recall the Miltonic trumpet verse—

"Ring out, ye crystal spheres,  
And let your silver chime  
Move in melodious time,  
And let the bass of heaven's deep organ blow;

or the gentler whisperings of the lover of the Jewish maiden—

"Sit, Jessica, look how the floor of heaven  
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold.  
There's not the smallest star, 'mongst all which  
thou beholdest, but in his orb  
But in its motion like an angel sings,  
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubim."

It may be urged, it has been urged, that these mythical conceptions of an æther in space are not to be coupled with the idea of a physical agency filling the interspaces of worlds, as conceived in the present day. Humboldt, specially draws attention to this point, where, observing on the reasonings of Empedocles and Aristotle, he says, "Considered as a medium filling the regions of space, the æther of Empedocles presents no other analogies, excepting those of subtlety and tenuity, with æther, by whose vibrations modern physicists have succeeded so happily in explaining on purely mathematical principles: the propagation of light, with all its properties of double refraction, polarization, and interference."

The natural philosophy of Aristotle teaches, that the ethereal substance penetrates all the living organisms of the earth, both plants and animals; that it becomes in these the principle of vital heat, the very germ of a psychical principle, which, uninfluenced by the body, stimulates men to independent activity. These visionary opinions draw down æther from the higher regions of space to the terrestrial sphere, and represent it as a highly rarified substance, constantly penetrating through the atmosphere and through solid bodies: precisely similarly to the vibrating light-æther of Huygens, Hooke, and modern physicists. But what especially distinguished the old Ionic from the modern hypothesis of æther, is the original assumption of luminosity—a view, however, not entirely advocated by Aristotle. The upper fire-air of Empedocles is expressly termed brightly radiating, and is said to be seen by the inhabitants of the earth, in certain phenomena, gleaming brightly through fissures and chasms which occur in the firmament.

Notwithstanding the high authority from which the above opinion, respecting the ancient and modern views of æther, is derived, we do not think it would demand a very laborious task to demonstrate that the difference tried to be established is one rather of words than of principles. The connection of light or of luminosity with æther is a pardonable error in men who looked, as many of our later philosophers also have looked, on light as a substantive thing, rather than as a series of vibrations made through an ethereal medium. Our own impression certainly is, that the ancient philosophers did distinctly comprehend, under the term æther, the same agency as that which we comprehend now under that term. It is necessary in this matter to separate the truly philosophical from the pseudo-philosophical readings of the ancients. It is necessary, in order to see the simple view which the Ionic philosophy propounded, to tear away the veil of religious obscurity with which after-writers enveloped the question; and these acts accomplished, we discern nothing more nor less than the hypothesis of the existence of a subtle medium, which, differing from the ordinary atmosphere penetrating it, penetrated the atoms of all bodies great and small, and extending from the substances on the planet, interspersed itself into the planetary spheres,

separating them, as it were, by its diffusibility, but connecting them by its presence.

In a word, it would be as unfair to convict the present generation of ignorant reasoning respecting the æther of space, because certain of our poets, in converting science into art according to their method, have given readings, figurative and dreamy, of the "medium" of the physicists, as it is to condemn the ancient philosopher, because, in the mouth of contemporary or succeeding writers of poetic turn and fire, his facts were woven into ecstasies, and his ideas into dreams.

Suffice it to say, that in every phase of learning from the early periods to which we have referred, the hypothesis never entirely left the minds of men. The hypothesis, in its purely philosophical sense, may be said to have been revived by Sir Isaac Newton, who has been accused in respect to this revival of an inconsistency of argument, and of self-contradiction. It has been urged that the whole theory of the *Principia* was based on the assumption of the vacuum of space, and no one can deny that this fact is sustainable as a fact. But it is urged also that Newton, in opposition to this vacuum hypothesis, himself placed in the regions of space not one substantive agency, but actually two—viz. light, which he conceived to be perpetually flowing from the sun and fixed stars, and æther, which he must have considered as an agent separable from, and different to, light.

Respecting the first of these statements, it must be conceded that, granting Newton believed in the actual substantiality of light, the inconsistency of his arguments in regard to the vacuum of space must be admitted of necessity; but we have ourselves a difficulty in accepting that he did believe in light as substance, according to the sense of that term, i.e. as signifying a body which would fill a vacuum as water might fill it. In regard to the idea of an æther, however, we are forced to admit the possibility of a more distinct inconsistency of reasoning. We can have no doubt that Newton, in his later works, and particularly in his letter to Boyle, ignored the idea of a vacuum in space as perfectly as any of the ancient physicists, and recognised, to use his own expressions and definitions, the existence of "an exceedingly subtle and elastic ethereal substance, which is diffused through all places, fills the pores of gross bodies and forms a large constituent of their bulk or volume," "which is the cause of cohesion, capillary attraction, and of the force by which menstrua pervade and dissolve solid bodies," and as an agent also which, diffused into and through the atmosphere, pervades the particles of all bodies, which particles are "separated and kept at a distance from one another by the same active principle"—æther.

We opine, further, that these definitions of our immortal countryman have directly from his own time been received and acknowledged as superseding any hypothesis respecting a vacuum of space; we believe that from him the idea of an all-pervading physical æther has descended more decisively to us, and that, without his sanction of the ancient thought, many truths of comparatively modern date would have been left unknown. In our own day, in this hour, the hypothesis of the supernal æther, and the many ideas which issue from that hypothesis, have become of deep interest to the philosophical, and through the philosophical to the general public. We may therefore, after the brief glance above taken of the history of the hypothesis, turn to the modern expression of belief. We may ask, what evidence still supports the speculation

of an æther in space? We may ask, what is known, or we had better said, what is thought, in regard to the nature and physical characters of a medium, such as has been suggested? We may inquire, lastly, what are its supposed uses and intentions as a part (granting its existence) of the universe of the Supreme?

In reply to the first of these queries, it is to be observed, that the idea of a pervading medium in space rests primarily on the feeling, almost innate, that there can be no such thing as a vacuum in the regions of the universe. This sentiment expresses itself in vague term truly, but yet in a term not easily replaced, when we say with the ancient thinker, "Nature abhors a vacuum." All our ideas, all our appreciation of the forces of nature, of the travelling of the heavenly bodies in their orbits, of the transition of heat and light from suns to worlds, and of the reflection of light from opaque bodies, tend to the conception that there must be an intervening medium between the luminous body and the body illuminated. If we regard heat and light themselves as direct emanations, or only one of them as an emanation, the other being a derivative, even then we destroy the idea of a vacuum, and making the emanation a substantive thing, transform it for the occasion into the æther or pervading agent. In fact, we cannot divest the mind of the idea: it is there, one of those innate thoughts which are rarely discovered to be wrong, and which often take the lead and form the very groundwork of philosophical induction. But certain other views, more distinctly physical in kind, are now presented to us. The speculation bearing on the radiation of heat from the atmosphere on its extreme surface, is one of these. The argument that if luminous bodies, such as the sun and fixed stars, not only give forth light, but that if such light permeated space in its original intensity then there would be a universal equality of light in lieu of the dark spaces which mark the firmament; this argument is again strongly corroborative of the existence of a universal distributing and, we may almost say, resisting medium.

Again, the theory of Young that light consists in a vibration of the æther with which all space is presumed to be filled, has led more powerfully than any previous argument to the adoption of the ether hypothesis. It has, indeed, been assumed that the undulatory theory of light is so perfect as a theoretical proposition, that all the facts respecting the phenomena of light are reducible by it to mathematical precision; and although this view has been, and to a certain extent successfully, combated, it has nevertheless made its way, it is now accepted as an article of faith held by thousands, and based upon it alone, that an elastic and refined medium, yet sufficiently substantive as to be thrown into waves and undulations, occupies the interspaces of worlds and fills the firmament.

Later still, the fact first made known by Encke, that those erratic bodies known as comets may have their courses arrested in space, and, as it would seem, may, irrespectively of the influences of the attractions of the planets, be made, we had almost said, to strike a new orbit, certainly a modified orbit, in the skies,—this fact, we say, has appeared to many to transform a plausible theory into a demonstration, and to prove that there is to the motions of the heavenly bodies, especially to those which possess least massiveness, a resisting element, which arrests them in their course, and which, consequently, must be universally distributed. True it is that here again a difficulty has been raised, and that an argument



has been offered to the effect, that the comet-resisting æther is not the same as the vibrating æther through which light is exhibited; but this refinement of philosophy has not to any degree modified the general view, nor even assumed to modify that view to the extent of destroying the theory of an intervening medium.

Lastly, within these few months we have obtained another argument in favour of the æther of space, in the labours of Mr. Daniel Vaughan, of Cincinnati, the title of whose learned paper we have placed at the head of this article. We shall endeavour in the sequel to condense the new view which Mr. Vaughan has here put forth.

In reasoning on the question whether a medium pervades space, Mr. Vaughan argues "that if the permanent change which seems to have been detected in the revolution of Encke's comet be not sufficient to establish the doctrine of a space-pervading æther, it may afford reasonable motives for examining other indications of the impediments of such a fluid to celestial motion." The direct information which can be obtained on this subject is at present very limited and uncertain. The approximate investigations hitherto given by mathematicians of the cause of the perturbations of the planets, necessarily overlook many slight effects of their mutual attraction; and we are thus prevented from discovering the unperiodical changes, which a small resistance to their movements might occasion. In addition to this we are incommoded by the want of observations made during very long periods of time; for they are as necessary in tracing the course of remote physical events, as an extensive base-line is in determining the distances of the fixed stars. But by investigating the necessary consequence of a resisting medium, and testing the result by a comparison with observed facts, we may be enabled to base our conclusions respecting this important question on evidence no less satisfactory than that which has already served to establish many of the received doctrines of physical science.

As there has prevailed amongst some astronomers an impression, not wholly unfounded, in regard to a modification which the sun's attractive power is supposed to experience from the emission of his light, Mr. Vaughan considers it desirable, in discussing the question of the influence of a pervading force on bodies in motion, to give special attention to cases in which the central body round which the moveable bodies revolve, is not luminous. Certain phenomena, observed in the secondary systems and in the dark systems of space, afford, he thinks, evidence not vitiated by any effects which light might be expected to produce.

Having set forth this proposition, Mr. Vaughan, turning his attention in the first instance to secondary systems, urges, that a satellite impeded by the resistance of a medium, would, by an imperceptibly slow diminution of its orbit, be finally introduced into the region of instability, where its dismemberment would be inevitable, and where it must be transformed into a ring, similar in all respects to the rings of Saturn.

#### THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

[We this week conclude our selection of the most remarkable papers read at the Manchester Meeting.]

Mr. J. T. HAMMACK, F.R.S., "On the General

#### Results of the Recent Census of the United Kingdom.

(Section of Statistical and Economic Science.) He referred to the Census as the most important statistical inquiry undertaken by the Government of this country, and not less valuable in its scientific bearings than of general interest as supplying a measure of the growth and stature of the nation. An operation of such magnitude required a complete organization to carry it successfully into effect. In England 30,800 enumerators were employed, besides 2,800 other local officers; in Scotland there were 8,075 enumerators; and in Ireland 5,280, these last being exclusively men of the constabulary and police force. With the superintending officers the total number of persons employed locally in the United Kingdom was 48,730. All these persons were furnished with printed instructions from the central authorities, and the enumerators received a sufficient supply of "household schedules" to admit of one being left with every head of a family in the kingdom. The printed forms and papers sent from the central office in London alone weighed forty-five tons. In England the heads of inquiry were the same as in 1851 (omitting the voluntary returns on education and religious worship); in Scotland, in addition to the other subjects, the number of "windowed rooms" and the number of children attending school were to be inquired into; and in Ireland, besides the usual information as to houses and persons, the educational status of the people, their religious professions, the number of deaths, and other details connected with vital statistics were included. These last items would have been unnecessary were not Ireland still the only part of civilized Europe not possessing a complete system of registration of births, deaths, and marriages. The writer then adverted to the want of symmetry in the population statistics of the United Kingdom. Homogeneous facts were given to the public in different forms, so as to defy any attempt to arrive at general results for the whole country; the returns of the occupations of the people and of their civil or conjugal condition were conspicuous examples of a want of congruity in the tables for Great Britain and Ireland. London, Edinburgh, and Dublin contributed fragments of our population statistics, but it was nobody's business to collect these *disjecta membra* and combine them into a co-ordinate whole. This system was not creditable to the country in which the International Statistical Congress held its fourth meeting last year, when the President, the Prince Consort, noticed our shortcomings in his inaugural address. Little doubt could be entertained, however, of the general accuracy and completeness of the Census. The highest ranks of society had always shown the utmost readiness to respond to the requirements of the Government, and no less worthy of remark was the alacrity with which the humbler classes furnished the returns this year, many enumerators who filled the same office ten years before having spoken of the increased intelligence shown by the labouring classes, even in the poorest districts. In a very few instances where people refused to fill up their Census paper the refusal was looked upon as arising from some latent insanity called into activity upon the occasion, and, as ample information respecting the recusants could be obtained from their neighbours, no penal proceedings were taken. The success of the Census was mainly attributable to the assistance rendered to the authorities by the press in diffusing correct views as to the objects and uses of the inquiry; and, as there is no ground for suspicion in this country with respect to the information given being used for the purposes of taxation or military service, as in several of the Continental States, our Census might be regarded as being as truthful and complete as that of any country in Europe. The number of persons residing in the British Islands on the 8th of April was 29,058,888, and, including the men in the army, navy, and merchant service out of the country, abroad or afloat, the total population might be set down as more than 29,250,000. Of these 14,380,000 were males, and 14,954,000 females; the females exceeded the males by 574,000, or 104 females to every 100 males. This disparity of the sexes was slightly on the increase, but it did not appear to be an unmitigated evil in a country where about 1,900,000 of adult women were withdrawn from

the domestic duties of wives and mothers to follow employments in the different trades and manufactures. In sixty years the United Kingdom had increased in population eighty-two per cent., and 13,250,000 had been added to the numbers of 1801. During the first thirty years of this period the increase had been fifty-two per cent., in the second only twenty per cent.; but before 1831 there was little emigration, while an account of nearly 5,000,000 emigrants had been taken by the Emigration Commissioners since that date. The maximum rate of increase was attained in the decade between 1811 and 1821, after the Peace. In the last ten years it had been six per cent. The writer then described the progress of population in each of the principal divisions of the kingdom, adverting to the dire effects of famine and pestilence in Ireland, and the brighter prospects now dawning upon the sister island. He thought it might not be out of place to add a few words on the approximate population of the British empire. According to the Blue-books and the latest official authorities, the North American colonies contained 3,785,000 inhabitants, and the Australasian group not less than 1,275,000; the West Indies about 1,000,000; the Cape and other African colonies, 870,000; Ceylon, 1,754,000; Mauritius, Hongkong, &c., 280,000; and the possessions in Europe, 305,000. To these an enormous addition must be made for British India—namely, 135,500,000. Adding the United Kingdom, the truly grand total was obtained of 275,000,000 of subjects of Queen Victoria. As regards the parent State, the head of this world-wide empire, it might be asked whether grounds existed for believing that the population had reached its culminating point, so that a retrograde movement rather than a continued advance might be looked for. He believed that the wealth and the industrial powers of the country would remain unabated, and that the numbers of the people would continue to increase. The acquisition of £12,000,000 of gold annually at a slight cost for labour, an improved management of taxation leaving raw materials unfettered, increased intelligence and skill, combined with the new discoveries of science—and, above all, the steam-engine and the railway, would still operate in increasing England's wealth, and with her material prosperity the numbers of the people would continue to increase.

MR. W. J. MACQUORN RANKINE, "On the Resistance of Ships." (Mechanical Science Section.) The author states that the investigation to which this paper relates was founded originally on experimental data, supplied to him by Mr. James R. Napier in 1857, and that its results were successfully applied to practice in 1858 and subsequently, to calculate beforehand the engine-power required to drive, at given speed, ships built by Mr. J. R. Napier. He refers to previous investigations of the effect of friction in resisting the motion of a ship through the water; but remarks, that those investigations could not be expected to yield definite results, because in them the velocity of sliding of the particles of water over the ship's bottom was treated as sensibly equal to the speed of the ship; whereas that velocity must vary at different points of the ship's bottom, in a manner depending on the positions of those points and the figure of the ship; being on an average greater than the speed of the ship in a proportion increasing with the fullness of the ship's lines. He then explains the general nature of the mathematical processes by which the friction can be determined. Their results, in the exact form, are very complex; but they can be expressed approximately, for practical purposes, by comparatively simple rules. Examples are given of the application of those rules to experiments by Mr. J. R. Napier, the author, and others, on steamships of very various sizes, forms, and speed.

The principal conclusions arrived at are:—That friction constitutes the most important part, if not the whole, of the resistance to the motion of ships that are well formed for speed; that its amount can be deduced with great precision from the form of the ship, by proper mathematical processes; that the engine-power required to overcome it varies nearly as the cube of the speed, and as a quantity called the "augmented surface," which is the quantity to be considered in fixing the dimensions of

propellers; that the friction consists of two parts, one increasing and the other diminishing with the length of the vessel; that the least resistance for a given displacement and speed is given by a proportion of length to breadth, which is somewhere about seven to one, but that excess of length is the best side to err on. The author states, as limitations to his theory, that it does not give the entire resistance of vessels that are so bluff as to push before them or drag behind them masses of "dead water," nor of vessels so small for their speed as to raise waves that bury a considerable part of their bows; and from the latter limitation he deduces precautions to be observed in making experiments on models, in order that the results may be applicable to large ships.

An Appendix to the above paper contains a comparison between the sailing yachts 'Themis' (formerly 'Titania') and 'America,' founded on their published plans. The author shows, that although from the greater size of the 'America,' and especially from the greater area and breadth of her load water-line, her capacity for carrying sail must be greater than that of the 'Themis,' the "augmented surfaces" of those two vessels are almost exactly equal; so that, according to the theory set forth in the paper, the 'America' ought to be the more speedy vessel, a result agreeing with that of the well-known trial of speed. The "augmented surface" of the 'Themis' is increased by the very hollow form of her cross-sections, so as to be greater than it might have been, if those sections had been nearly triangular, as they are in the 'America.'

MR. TUFFEN WEST, "On some points of interest in the Structure and Habits of Spiders." (*Zoological Section*.) His object was not so much to communicate new facts as to show that in the study of the habits of spiders there was very much to interest and much to be learned. It would be a curious question why so many people shudder at the sight of spiders; for their colours were always chaste, and often they were bright and pleasing. Some had a metallic brilliancy; some closely resembled in colour the ground on which they moved. Some, by perceptible internal emotions, were able to change the colour of their anterior pair of eyes, from brilliant emerald green or ruby red to golden yellow, and *vice versa*. As to their legs, the third pair of the four which are indispensable, is always the shortest; but at present we know nothing as to why in some cases the first pair is the longest, and in others the fourth or the second. The author describes various other peculiarities connected with different kinds of spiders. The males are almost invariably the smaller; and some of the females, three or four times the size of the males, are known to devour the latter during what may be called the period of courtship. The *Atypus Pilzeri*—our only representative of the bird-catching spiders of the tropics—has the jaws so enormously developed, that but for special modifications the creature would be unable to see its prey when immediately before it. In many cases, the affection of spiders for their young is very great. The female lycosæ enclose their eggs in a cocoon, of a leathery consistence lined with flocculent silk. The cocoon is attached by lines to the spinners, and so carried about. After leaving it, the young for some time cling to the hairs covering the parent's body; and they had frequently been mistaken for parasites. Several spiders of the genus *Theridion* form a strong tent for their residence, strengthening it, when bad weather threatens, so that it resists both rain and gusty winds. The web of the geometric spider is bestrewn, at regular intervals, with glittering beads of a viscid substance, the number of which may safely be computed at a hundred and twenty thousand in a web that would be completed in fifteen minutes. One species, an air breather, lives under water, constructing and carrying down its own diving-bell, so to speak. All have a power of restoring lost limbs; and their power of enduring hunger is very great, the author knowing a case in which the fast was continued for fourteen months. One point connected with spiders has a curious bearing upon questions raised by Darwin in his *Origin of Species*. A few months ago it was publicly stated that spider-webs occurred in the abandoned workings of the Pelton Colliery, near

Chester-le-Street, Durham. The producers proved to be *Nerine errans*, a small spider found, but not abundantly, in hayfields. They were probably carried down with the provender for horses used in the pit. Naturally, they are solitary and construct no web. In the mine their instincts appear, by force of circumstances, to have been completely altered. The author has seen and handled in the mine a sheet of web thirty feet long by four feet six inches high; for there these spiders live not singly but in great colonies. With these changes in habits, is any change in the structure of the creatures taking place? No dissection of the optic nerves has yet taken place; but these spiders are still highly sensitive to light, dropping rapidly from their web on the approach of the Davy lamp. Here is an opportunity of testing Mr. Darwin's theory. The spiders have not long been underground. Will naturalists to come—the creatures, in lapse of time, becoming blind—be able to trace the progressive atrophy of the optic nerves and multiplication in the number of the spinnerets? The specimens removed from the pit had all died soon afterwards. Had the altered barometric pressure caused this, or what other reason could be assigned for the fact? Had we, in short, a Darwinian creation proceeding, all the stages of which would hereafter be traceable?

A good deal of discussion followed the paper. The Rev. Mr. Higgins (Liverpool) mentioned a case, in which, according to his father's testimony, a spider must have remained in a pill-box, in a disused coat, for eight or nine years, but which jumped out as soon as the box was opened, and seemed quite lively.

Mr. Lubbock said he knew that Mr. Darwin was very anxious for a comparison with these spiders from the coalpit and others of the species in their natural state.

Mr. West gave various directions for preserving specimens. The *Nerinea*, he said, had spinners naturally, but it never made a web, and only spun a line in sometimes passing from one object to another.

The other papers read were:—Mr. P. L. Sclater, "Remarks on the late increase in our knowledge of the Struthious Birds." Rev. A. R. Hogan, "On *Daphnia Schaefferi* and other freshwater Crustacea." Rev. H. H. Higgins, "On the arrangement of hardy herbaceous plants adopted in the Botanic Gardens, Liverpool." Mr. T. M. Mitchell, "On the Migration of the Herring." Mr. C. W. Peach, "Report on the Herring Fishery."

DR. CLELAND, "On a Method of Craniometry," with observations on the varieties of the human skull. (*Physiological Section*.) He said that, notwithstanding the great interest which attached to the changes which the form of the human skull undergoes in the passage from infancy to old age, and the varieties of its appearance in different nations, little had been done as yet to determine what the various superficial appearances indicated as to the exact form of the skull. It was as if artistic views had been taken of the brain's habitation from various points, but as yet no ground-plan attempted. And this apparently resulted from the skull being studied rather as an object of physiognomical interest than as an anatomical structure. He then pointed out the method which he had invented for making accurate measurements of the relations of any series of points on the circumference of the cranium. The instrument consisted of a framework and bars, by which the vertical and horizontal distance of any spot from a fixed point could be determined. By means of a short series of figures it was thus possible to convey to persons at a distance material for making perfectly accurate measurement of skulls which they had not even seen a drawing of. The reader of the paper then went on to show that, although there was great difference between savage and cultivated nations in the proportional breadth of the cranium and of the face, when the proportions of front, middle, and back parts of the head were examined, there was seen to be no characteristic difference of size and shape between the European and the African. The peculiar appearance of the skulls of Negroes, Australians, Caribs, &c. compared with civilized nations, depended on the way in which the teeth were set, on the deve-

lopment of the frontal ridge to the extent of giving the appearance of a retreating forehead, and on the manner in which the whole head was balanced on the vertebral column. He pointed out that one of the most characteristic differences between man and all other mammals consisted in the fact that the human head was balanced in the erect posture, only requiring muscular action to steady it, while the skull of the chimpanzee and all lower mammals had the head suspended by the action of muscles and elastic structure. To preserve the balance of the human head, it was necessary that a change in the joint which articulated it to the neck should take place in such a manner as to tilt the skull further and further backwards on the vertebral column from infancy to adult age, that the back of the head might be balanced against the increasing weight of the forehead and face; and he demonstrated that such a change really took place. Hence also the feminine head, there being a smaller development of the face bones, had a characteristic position in relation to the neck, distinguishing it from the masculinely developed head. He showed that, in the discussions which had lately taken place to such an extent among anatomists, as to the degree in which the cerebellum was covered by the brain proper, in man and in monkeys, there lurked a fallacy; for that in all mammals the anatomically superior aspect of the cerebellum was separated from the cerebrum by the tentorium only; that the real difference lay in this, that the human skull was much more curved upon itself in man than in any other animal. Thus, if the back of a sheep's skull were placed in the same position as the back of a human skull, situated as in the erect posture, the nose of the former would be directed perpendicularly upwards.

SIR EDWARD BELCHER, "On the Glacial Movements noticed in the vicinity of Mount St. Elias, on the North-west Coast of America." Early in September, 1837, Sir Edward's expedition ran down the coast of North America between Ports Etches and Mulgrave, in order to fix the position and determine the height of Mount St. Elias. The icebergs which hung near the coast were much larger than any he had seen in Behring's Strait, and northerly, or off the mouths of the fiords in the vicinity of Port Etches. After a description of the beautiful appearance presented by the icebergs, the author of the paper expressed his belief that in Icy Bay the lower bodies of the ice were subject to slide, and that the entire substratum, as frequently found within the Arctic Circle, was composed of slippery mud. In Icy Bay, the apparently descending ice from the mountains to the base was in irregular broken masses, which tumbled in confusion. The motion was clearly continuous. As to the causes which operated in causing the constant displacement of the glaciers, and the protrusion of the bergs to seaward, many theories had been proposed. His (Sir Edward's) impression was that whatever was the intensity of cold under which congelation had taken place, the actual temperature due to the ice was merely that of 32° Fahrenheit, and the self-registering thermometers properly buried in ice or snow, subject even to the very low temperature of 62° 5' below zero, on the external skin, only indicated the proper temperature of freezing water. Speaking, however, of the very high latitudes of 66° to 76° with the summer temperature between the 1st June and the end of August, the thaw on the surface of the snow-clad elevations furnished sufficient water to undermine the lower beds of snow ice, and bore a passage to the sea. However firm the crust might be in certain positions, a furious torrent had been at work beneath. They were thus driven to the conclusion that the temperature of the earth must, in some degree, aid in keeping up a temperature sufficiently high to prevent the water hidden from light or the sun's rays from congealing. The advance of vegetation was another proof—the ground willow, saxifrages, mayflower, and many others producing their shoots before light caused the immediate expansion and colouring of the leaf. The earth's temperature acting on the lower portions next to the soil, aided in facilitating the travel or slip of the snow-ice of which these glaciers were composed to lower levels. In all ice formations might be noticed, at the season which followed



the period of dry frost, or preceded the spring, a peculiar dryness, the result of evaporation of the superfluous water, attended by dense fogs. An ominous cracking was then experienced, which had been misrepresented by some of the first Arctic explorers as the breaking of the bolts of their vessels; no bolt was ever traced to have been so broken. He imagined that the soil on which masses of eternal, or eternally-shifting, ice reposed, must be, from never being exposed to the sun's rays, of a loose, boggy, or muddy nature, which facilitated slipping. The undermining facilitated cracking, and the very action of alternate freezing and thawing between the exposed surfaces, serving as aqueducts along the upper portions into which water would flow, must produce compact ice; and its power in that very action was quite adequate, by comparison, not only to remove ice, but even mountains of earth, provided the *point d'appui* be afforded. It was evident, with respect to the lower portions supporting Mount St. Elias, and which were subject to a summer heat which ripened strawberries, and was even more oppressive than we experienced in England, with the rapid thaws of the inferior levels, that repeated fracture and avalanches occurred. They must calculate on sudden tremendous concussive force, by the breaking away of whole ranges and precipitating them on the lower strata. It was his opinion that the shocks of the avalanches communicated laterally had produced such fractures as had been noticed in those peculiar pyramidal forms near Mount St. Elias. These fractures opened, were filled by water, which probably froze at night or when the sun was absent, and expansion drove the exterior masses, which were then termed bergs, into the sea. Such was his theory, founded on severe thought, over a period of thirty-five years, under frequent contact with nature in actual operation.

DR. LIONEL BEALE, "On the Structure and Growth of the Elementary Parts (Cells) of Living Beings." (*Physiological Section*.) The object of the author was to prove, amongst other points, that all tissues consist of elementary parts, and that each elementary part (cell) is composed of matter in two states—germinal matter and formed material. The only part of the matter of which living structures are composed, which possesses the power of selecting pabulum, and of transforming this into various substances—of growing, multiplying, and forming tissue—are those which he terms germinal matter. The powers of growth of this matter are infinite; but for the manifestation of the powers, even in a limited degree, certain conditions must be present. Growth always occurs under certain restrictions. Germinal matter is composed of spherical particles, and each of those of smaller spherules. New centres of growth originate in the spherical masses. Nuclei therefore are not formed first, and other structures built up around them; but nuclei are new centres, originating in pre-existent centres. All tissue (cell wall, intercellular substance, &c.) was once in the state of germinal matter and resulted from changes occurring in the oldest particles of the masses of germinal matter. What the author calls "intercellular substance" corresponds with the cell-wall of a single cell; and there is no more reason for believing that this structure results from any inherent power to form matrix, or that the intercellular substance is simply deposited from the nutrient fluid, than for believing that the capsule of mildew can grow independently of the matter it encloses, or be formed by being precipitated from the medium which surrounds it. There is a period in the existence of cartilage and allied structures, in which there is no true "intercellular substance." In nutrition, the inanimate matter permeates the formed material, and passes into the germinal matter, where it undergoes conversion into this substance. The old particles of germinal matter become converted into formed material. Growth, therefore, always takes place from centre to circumference. The relative proportion of germinal matter and formed material varies greatly in different elementary parts, in the same elementary part at different periods of its growth, and in the same tissue under different circumstances. The more rapidly growth proceeds, the larger the amount of germinal matter produced in proportion to the formed material. In all living beings, the matter upon which existence depends is

the germinal matter; and in all living structures the germinal matter possesses the same general characters, although its powers and the results of its life are so very different.

MR. J. A. SYMONS, "On British Rainfalls." (*Mathematical and Physical Section*.) He stated that the rainfall of 1860 was about 1,500,000 of figures, and considerably above the mean at most stations, the average excess for previous years being 25 per cent. It was nearly 50 per cent. in Herefordshire and some parts of the Lake districts, whilst at Manchester it was only three points in excess.

Some discussion took place on the question, in the course of which Mr. Valpy, Mr. Glaisher, and other gentlemen joined. Mr. Glaisher dwelt at some length on the subject, showing that it was a highly practical question, and stated that the welfare of the people of this country depended, in a main degree, upon an accurate knowledge of the subject.

DR. E. SMITH, "On the Influence of the Seasons on the Human Body." (*Physiological Section*.) His experiments, he said, had been made upon himself almost exclusively; one set having reference to the respiratory system, and the other to the elimination of nitrogen. As to respiration, the amount of carbonic acid evolved varies from day to day and from month to month, but in a definite manner according to the season. There was a tolerably uniform amount of vital action, according to this test, throughout the cold season; about March or April there was an increase, at the beginning of June there was a decline; the decline continued down to the end of September, and so on until the point from which he started was reached. At the highest point, nine or ten grains of carbonic acid per minute was evolved; at the lowest only six or seven grains. The same rule applied to the quantity of air expired, and to the rate of respiration. The rate of pulsation, however, increased as the heat increased—was the converse of the rate of respiration. As to the evolutions of nitrogen, the conditions were the opposite of those of the elimination of carbonic acid. The experiments had shown that on the very day of a sudden increase of temperature, there was a large decrease of vital action. Difference of season made a difference in the effect of a given degree of heat upon the body. In early summer, high temperature did not affect us so much as later, because then the ground was fresh and cool. The elimination of urea was proved to be direct in degree according to the pressure of the air; with reference to carbonic acid the effect was inverse. It might be at once inferred that the greatest growth of animals would occur at the period of largest amount of vital action; and in this point the animal and vegetable kingdoms were alike. He had been informed, and could well believe, that children grew more in summer than in winter. A late calf or a late brood of chickens was always stunted, compared with those born at the natural period; and this was closely connected with the question of the degree of viability of animals born at different seasons of the year. It was a fair probability to assume that the young of animals born at the period of least vital action, would have less power of resisting adverse circumstances than those born at the period of greatest vital action. He had obtained from the Registrar General means of testing the point, as regarded 3000 or 4000 children born in the northern part of the kingdom; and he found that of those born at the later period of the summer, a much larger number died than of those who were born during winter or spring. It was fair to infer, therefore, that children born in the latter period were in all probability less liable to disease than those born during the former. In the conditions which he had stated would, he thought, be seen both the origin of disease and the origin of the cure of disease—he meant diseases of a chronic character. All epidemic diseases occurred at the period when the human system was shown to be decreasing in vital action, and were at their highest point when the vitality was least. Look at cholera. There may have been some isolated cases during the winter; they may have increased during the spring; but it was always at the beginning of June when their number attracted attention. As heat advanced, so mortality increased; in August or September the

greatest mortality always occurred, but the disease decreased in October, and disappeared in November.

The President said he believed that, as a rule, high temperatures agreed well with young children.

Dr. Smith said it was not settled when the period of greatest vitality occurred in tropical climates; and as to English children they generally had to be sent home from the East or West Indies when seven or eight years old.

Dr. Noble asked whether the proposition of Dr. Smith, as to carbonic acid gas, was not very much a question of the oxygen inspired. In summer, the atmosphere was more rarified. Would there not then be systematically less oxygen inspired?

Dr. Smith said that it was necessary to go much deeper; for the quantity of carbonic acid diminished, as the quantity of air increased.

Mr. Ransome and other gentlemen spoke briefly; and the discussion was then closed.

Professor Rolleston read papers "On the Anatomy of Pteropus," and "On the Homologies of the lobes of the Liver in Mammalia."—Dr. Richardson contributed a paper "Physiological researches on the artificial production of Cataract."

CAPTAIN CAMERON, H.B.M. Consul at Massonah, "On the Ethnology, Geography, and Commerce of the Caucasus." (*Geographical and Ethnological Section*.) The locality referred to was the Caucasian Isthmus. Hercules, Castor, and Pollux, Ulysses, and other Greek worthies, were all said to have done something towards the opening the Caucasus to the enterprise of their countrymen. It grew to be pre-eminently a land of marvels. After reference to the ancient traditions of the Amazons, it was stated that the Caucasus had played its part in history, and especially made itself felt in the movements of the two important continents which it both separated and linked together. The Caucasus was a laboratory in which nature had been working on the largest scale, and magnificent results were given in its varied geological formation, &c. The beginning of the establishment of the Cossacks in the Caucasus dated some centuries back, and their numbers were systematically augmented by Peter the Great and his successors. After a reference to the various Tartar tribes, and to the Tcherkisses, whose habits were graphically described, other portions of the inhabitants of the Caucasus were similarly noticed. So far from Schamyl being the chief of the Circassians, they looked upon his "levelling" system of government with suspicion and dislike; and it was only among the Tchetchenes and Lesghis that Schamyl had any power. The Caucasus possessed every diversity of soil; it was capable of producing indigo and cotton. The silk trade had received a stimulus by the failure of the supply in other quarters. During the Irish famine, 125,000 bushels of Indian corn were exported to this country. In the Caucasus, as elsewhere in the East, Swiss manufactures were gaining rapidly on those of England, a fact which Mr. Herries ascribed to the circumstance that hand-loom patterns and colours could be constantly varied without difficulty or expense, which, he said, was not the case with power-loom weaving. In the bazaars in Mingrelia, however, the average of British goods as against Swiss was generally as three to two. Steam had been introduced both on the Black and Caspian Seas and elsewhere.

JAMES HECTOR, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., "On the Capabilities for Settlement of the Central Part of British North America." (*Zoological and Botanical Section*.) The author stated that that region extended from Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean, lying immediately north of the boundary line of the United States, and was drained principally by the river Saskatchewan. A considerable amount of agitation had been employed in Canada and at home, in order to have this country thrown open for settlement; the whole, with the exception of that portion which fell within British Columbia, being under the direct control of the Hudson's Bay Company for the purposes of a fur-trading monopoly. It had been placed beyond doubt, principally through the labours of several government expeditions, to one of which he (Mr. Hector) was attached, that there existed within these territories extensive areas, with good and varied soil, adapted for agricultural colonization, but which, from their geo-

graphical position, were necessarily subject to all the advantages and defects of a temperate continental climate. The winter was long and severe, the spring short and uncertain, and the summer tended to scorch the vegetation. The winter, however, was not more severe than that which was experienced in Canada and elsewhere. Many crops which were readily raised in Canada would not meet with equal success in the Saskatchewan; but all common cereals and green crops had been grown successfully. The depth of the snow was never excessive, while in the richest tracts the natural pasture was so abundant that horses and cattle might be left to obtain their own food during the greater part of the winter; and there was no doubt that sheep might be reared, were it not for the immense packs of wolves which infested the country. These remarks applied more especially to the "Fertile Belt." The Saskatchewan country offered a most desirable field to the settler who was deficient in capital, and who had no desires beyond the easy life and moderate gains of simple agricultural occupations. It was only the difficulty of access to it that prevented its immediate occupation. One route, from Hudson Bay, by a broken land and water carriage, was now almost abandoned. A second route was from Lake Superior to Lake Winnipeg, which had the same disadvantages. The third line of ingress, undoubtedly the natural one, passed through American territory, up the valley of the Mississippi river to the Red River settlement, by way of St. Paul, Crow Wing, and across the low watershed which there divided the waters of the Mississippi from those flowing to Hudson's Bay. The progress of the adjoining American settlements was then noticed. In the rugged country which lay between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific coast, no doubt all the valleys were filled with rich auriferous deposits; diggings were constantly being discovered in fresh localities. The formation of a line of railway through British Columbia would involve great difficulties. Throughout the Saskatchewan country, there were deposits of coal of considerable value, though not to be compared with that which was common in England. Coal of somewhat better quality also occurred at Vancouver's Island; and that colony was a valuable link in a chain of communication with China and the East Indies, by way of a line of route across the North American continent.

MR. JAMES BOWEN, "On the Extinct Volcanoes of Western Victoria." (*Geological Section*.) Having lately visited the extinct volcanoes of Italy and France, as well as having observed the active cone of Vesuvius, the author did not think he was wrong in calling the south-western part of Victoria and the adjacent portion of South Australia the burnt fields of Australia. The country referred to lies chiefly between the slate and granite dividing range of the diggings and the tertiary limestone of the sea coast, having an area of nearly half the size of England. It extends from the Bay of Port Phillip, near Melbourne, and Geelong, to beyond the western border of Victoria, by the Glenelg. The great basaltic plain of the west has few interruptions from the bay to the border, and from the shore to the central range. The basalt is of all varieties, and furnishes in its decomposition the finest soil to the agriculturist. I have seen an island of basalt in a sea of slate, so to speak, which abounds with farms, though surrounded by heartless woods and shingle soil. Many mammeloidal lava hills are found on the plateau of the dividing range. Caverns, nearly 500 feet in length, exist in the basaltic floor of the plains. On the south-west side of the great salt lake Corangamite, there are basaltic rises. These are huge barriers from 10 to 60 feet in height, forming a vast labyrinth of rocks, 15 miles long by 12 broad. The natives in olden times retreated to these inaccessible retreats, when the sheep stole from the flocks in the neighbourhood. The ash or tufa has the same appearance as those the author observed at Lake Albano, near Rome, and at Pompeii. It is occasionally sufficiently solidified to become building stone. Carvings, however, are very commonly made of it in the district. The ash and cinder conglomerate exists but in one place—on the island of Lawrence, in the Portland Bay. Cliffs of

this singular compound rise there 150 feet. The author's impression is, that the source was a submarine volcano to the south-west—the course of the prevailing wind and current; and that the ashes and volcanic dust were received in some sheltered bay, since raised with the coast. The extinct volcanoes are in the form of lakes and mountains. The lakes are depressions usually on slight eminences. Terang, Elingamite, Purumbete, Wagoon, and Lower Hill, are fresh; while Keilambete and Bulleenmerri are salt. The shallow saline lakes of the plains were not former craters. The depths of some of these lakes are 50, 100, 150, 200, and 300 feet. The banks vary from a few feet to 300 feet in height above the water. The circumference varies from a hundred yards to seven miles. The thickness of the ash increases with the distance from the crater, but is always thickest on the eastern side. At Lower Hill, at a quarter of a mile from the bank, on the northern quarter, it is 80 feet deep; while at a mile off, on the eastern side, it is 150 feet. The volcanic hills vary from a few yards to above 2000 feet above the sea level. The depth of the dry craters runs from 50 feet to 300 feet. Gambier and Schanck are within the South Australian border. The former has three fine lakes. The latter is a dry basin, known as the Devil's Punchbowl. Porndon is a cone of very light cinder, rising amidst the remarkable rises. Leura is a broken crater on the edge of the rises; while Purumbete is a beautiful sheet of water a few miles distant, which once, as a crater, discharged vast quantities of ash. The other principal volcanoes of Western Victoria are Buninyong, Blowhard, Noorat, Gellibrand, Napier, Franklin, Cavern, Shadwell, Lower Hill, Clay, Elephant, Eckersley. No adequate impression can be received as to the age of the activity of these cones and craters. There is a freshness in most of them, indicative of a comparatively modern date. The natives have traditions of the eruptions of several of them. As loam overspreads the recently scattered auriferous drift of several of the diggings, it would not appear to have been of great date. It occurs on tertiary limestone to the west, and underlies it as well.

MR. DANSON, "On the Law of Universal Storms." (*Mathematical and Physical Section*.) In the course of his paper the author laid down a theory incident to storms, and the regularity and occurrence of them when happening. In a lengthened and elaborate statement, he endeavoured to show that it was something like infatuation on the part of seafaring men ignoring the phases of nautical laws, and stated that, so far as he had been enabled to form an opinion on the subject, it amounted to nothing less than obstinate folly on the part of captains and seamen, who declined to act on the theory of those laws. He was not going to say that all the nautical theories hitherto advanced were to be taken as a guide by those who had to encounter the perils of the waves; for in a majority of instances it must be conceded that those who were the masters of ships were best enabled individually to judge; but he could not disguise from himself the truth that it was a most lamentable fact, and one which showed, in a painful degree, the recklessness of our mercantile marine—captains and commanders, as well as ordinary seamen included—that they would not believe in or act upon these laws; but, on the other hand, as far as the result of practical experience enabled the world to judge, they could not be induced generally to adopt them. It was a point of the greatest importance, at the present time, to consider whether it was not desirable to adopt improved means to secure the safety of traffic, leaving the rapidity of ships' passages as a secondary ingredient; and supposing this view of the subject to be recognized, it was worthy of being taken into account whether the theory of what was now nautically known as the "great circle sailing," was not the best to be adopted by our mercantile marine captains generally. He knew that in insisting upon the practical utility of recognizing this theory he was in antagonism with the views of many experienced seamen, whose views were entitled to a profound amount of respect; but he nevertheless ventured to suggest, as worthy of the notice of the Section and the nautical public generally, that, in a great number of cases, ships whose cap-

tains had followed the "great circle sailing" theory, had arrived safely at their respective destinations; whilst other vessels, under the same conditions of thermometer and barometrical circumstances, but whose commanders had adhered to the hitherto received ideas of practical nautical navigation, had met with a fate which it would only be painful to dilate upon. He was firmly persuaded that until the principle of "circular sailing" was practically adopted by the masters and commanders in connection with our mercantile marine, we should in vain look for an average amount of safety and security as regarded our ships and their crews; and entertaining, as he did most strongly, these views, he did not think that he could too warmly enforce upon the attention of the Section, whose duties were so peculiarly identified with grave mathematical questions, the vital interest of this practical subject. Referring to the length and duration of storms, he said that the results of several of the most minute calculations indicated that in the instances of storms several of them had been noted down, showing that they extended as far as three thousand eight hundred miles, and travelled at the rate of fifty miles an hour. This was a moderate calculation, and by many, indeed, regarded as below, rather than above, the average. All new theories must, of necessity, if not actually discarded, be subject to considerable doubt and discussion, before being finally received or rejected; and he felt that the theory which he had endeavoured to explain must undergo the ordeal of public scrutiny; but, in the interest of that large number of our fellow-creatures whose lot was cast upon the seas, he urged upon the reflecting public the imperative necessity of the natural laws of storms being more widely and popularly studied.

DR. MACADAM, "On the proportion of Arsenic present in Paper-hangings." (*Chemical Section*.) He said that during the last two years attention had been called to the subject of arsenic in paper-hangings. That arsenic papers were injurious to health, had been brought under his notice by several of his professional medical brethren, who had been satisfied that their patients had the preliminary symptoms of poisoning by arsenic. He related a few instances, from which it appeared that the patients who had been affected with the symptoms of arsenical poisoning recovered their health on ceasing to occupy the bedrooms which contained the arsenic papers. He was aware that the question whether the arsenic in paper-hangings was injurious was still under discussion. In the majority of green paper-hangings arsenic was present in rough powder. He was told that generally flock paper did not contain arsenic. He exhibited several green papers in which arsenic was deposited in a rough condition. When he struck one of them with his hand, a cloud of dust arose; it was arsenic, which had been placed over the surface of the paper. In those packages of envelopes, where there were twenty-five to each package, each packet was packed in a band of green paper to keep the envelopes together. If one purchased two packets, or fifty envelopes, here was to be found 2-3 grains of arsenic in the green paper bands. He had found as much as forty grains of arsenic to the square foot of green paper. During the ordinary process of cleansing and switching a great deal of arsenic would be brought down, it would lie on the floor and bed-clothes. The papers were placed upon the walls of the rooms in a damp condition, and the paper became damp during the process of respiration, and the arsenic was liable to be carried off in the condition of water. With regard to the injury such arsenic papers had upon the system, the injury in no case was carried so far as to lead to actual poisoning.

MR. W. PENNELL, "On a New Bone-cave at Brixham." (*Geological Section*.) This cavern was a second new one, discovered in March last; it is rich in fossil bones; and the district in which it exists has become famous in connection with these caverns. The hamlets forming the town of Brixham occupy a valley running nearly east and west, which is separated from Torbay on the north by a limestone hill 150 feet above the sea, while the southern boundary consists of four hills, forming a chain parallel to that on the north, known as Furzeham



Common, but extending a mile further eastward, where it terminates in Berry Head, the southern horn of Torbay. In Windmill Hill, the second (from the west) of the four, the celebrated cavern was discovered in 1858; and in the third is the well-known Ash Hole. After a cessation of nearly twenty years, quarrying operations had been partially resumed at Bench, on the Torbay slope of Furzeham Hill; and these led to the discovery of the new cave. The quarry is being worked at right angles to the coast line. Near the top of the west or back wall, and near the angle formed by the junction of the south wall, there is a dike or breccia, made up of bones, reddish clayey earth, and angular pieces of limestone, evidently from the adjoining rock. The earth is precisely similar to that in which the bones are found imbedded in the Torbay caverns. The base of the breccia is on the same level as the bone-bed in the Windmill Hill Cavern; and there can be no doubt it filled, either wholly or partly, a north and south fissure. Nearly the whole of the dike was revealed during the old quarrying operations. In the exposed face, there were visible several fine bones; but even a remarkably fine left ramus of a lower jaw bristling with teeth, probably of the cave hyena, not only did not attract the attention of the workmen at the time, but it remained unobserved for twenty-two years. Soon after quarrying was resumed, in March last, the removal of the remnant of an outer wall caused a portion of the dike to fall. Numerous bones were now so conspicuous amongst the earth and stones, that the principal workman collected several hundreds, consisting of teeth, jaws, skulls, vertebrae, and portions of horns, with a large quantity of unidentifiable bone debris. It is not likely that the dike formed originally only part of a mass filling a cavern, great part of which was destroyed by the workmen twenty years ago; for in the neighbourhood it was known that cave bones would fetch good prices. In fact, the handwriting of the departed limestone was visible on the breccia sheet that had been so long exposed. Near the southern foot of the dike is the mouth of a small tunnel, with a stalagmitic floor; its extent is not known. In the southern wall of the quarry are two larger chambers, filled with the reddish earth and limestone debris; they are known to be connected, but it is not known whether they communicate with the tunnel, but it is exceedingly probable that they are all parts of one considerable cavern. All the materials of the dike undoubtedly fell, or were washed in from above; giving a great example of what probably occurred at Orestone, near Plymouth, where observed phenomena compel the belief that the fossil bones must in this way have found ingress to the cavern, though lines of fissure are not always very distinct there. The owner had now decided himself to explore the chambers and tunnel; but although he had declined to sell the right so to do, he had always given the author access, and had promised to enable him to note every fact discovered, and he had also lent the exhibited specimens. There is a great field for exploration at Brixham. It is to be hoped that quarrymen may not in future be so blind to their own interests as to lay open a dike of osseous breccia without discovering that they have done so; and that proprietors will not, as in a case within the author's knowledge, admit that he had filled up a cavern, which he called "a large hole in the rock," by "throwing twenty cartloads of rubbish into it."

## MUSIC AND DRAMA.

## PRINCESS'S.

The feelings of the critic, when called upon to review "a new and original five-act comedy" are sufficiently strange to render it a difficult thing to decide what comparison may best give an adequate idea of their novelty. He may liken them to those of "some watcher of the skies, when a new planet swims into his ken;" but better still to the emotions which sway the bosom of a Du Chaillu, when first he "hears or dreams he hears," at three miles' distance, the horrible drumming of that sufficiently notorious parody upon, or kinsman of, man, with which

his name is now for ever and indissolubly linked, whether to his credit or the reverse let Professor Owen settle with Dr. Gray or Mr. Walker. However, this novel gratification is at present afforded us: a new and original five-act comedy, entitled "Playing with Fire," the production of Mr. John Brougham, having been brought out at the Princess's Theatre on Saturday last. As a week has now elapsed since the production of this new piece (new at least to London, though it has already been favourably received in America and the provinces), there has been opportunity for lengthier and more elaborate criticism upon it, than our limits permit of, to appear in the daily press. We scarcely think that this criticism has done justice either to the merits of the comedy or the warmth of its reception. True, it was easy to observe in the house the presence of those numerous partisans whose indiscriminating zeal is annoying to the general audience, and detrimental to the sterling success of the piece; but there was, beyond this hiring applause, a genuine, hearty, and spontaneous approval upon the part of a *bona fide* audience, which was quite unmistakable. As for the play itself, we are far from asserting that it is a very high triumph of dramatic or poetic power; but it certainly is one of the most genuinely amusing comedies which we have for some time past witnessed. Against the opinion of some of our contemporaries, and unlike most plays we are called upon to review, we think that there is no need of compression; and there is no flagging of interest from the commencement to the conclusion. Mr. Herbert Waverley and his wife (Mr. George Jordan and Miss Rose Leclercq) have lived a life of such unbroken and unclouded domestic serenity, not the slightest breeze ruffling the sea of their conjugal happiness, that the natural consequence has resulted of so unnatural a calm—vapours have arisen, and both husband and wife have become jealous of the sincerity of the other's affection. They have a friend, Dr. Savage (Mr. John Brougham), who has adopted a totally different plan with his wife (Miss Carlotta Leclercq). He has adopted an opinion which, in case our lady readers deem it heretical, we decline accepting the responsibility of endorsing, that, in order to keep a lady happy, it is necessary to give her something to fret about; that, in fact, as the never-to-be-forgotten poet of our childhood has it, "Satan finds some mischief still, for idle hearts," as well as "hands, to do." He accordingly doles out his affections and attention to her in such measure as guards against the possibility of a surfeit, and seasons their love with a little occasional piquant neglect. This treatment appears to answer, and their life is at any rate free from the fancied troubles of their friends. To this couple, then, come the unhappy pair. Herbert consults the Doctor, and Mrs. Waverley takes counsel with Mrs. Savage. Singularly enough, the recommendation is in each case the same: the Doctor advises Herbert to induce some young fellow to make love to his wife, and under the strong persuasion of the latter, consents himself to personate the Don Juan, while Mrs. Savage also persuades Mrs. Waverley to flirt with the Doctor, in order to observe what effect it produces upon her husband. The consequence is a scene which eventually becomes excessively ludicrous. Mrs. Waverley, knowing the Doctor to be a slow and sedate man, feels it necessary to make strong love; and instead of the mild flirtation to be expected, she tells the Doctor candidly she adores him, being all the time backed up by her friend, his wife, who from the doorway is encouraging her protestations. But a strange surprise awaits them both: the gentleman, instead of the expected bashfulness, receives enthusiastically the avowal, and reciprocates it in terms of even greater warmth. Here is a dilemma with a vengeance: the astonished Mrs. Waverley cannot retire from the embarrassing position in which she is placed, and her friend is wild with jealousy and rage at this supposed infidelity of her spouse. Herbert also becomes persuaded that his friend is playing him false, and making a serious instead of a sham attack upon his wife's heart. This confusion, which is heightened by some fortuitous circumstances connected with the underplot, which gives the supposed treachery an air of greater reality, is augmented till the most serious results seem imminent, amounting, if we judged only by the conduct of the parties, to an exchange of wives;

but, of course, the explanation is brought about, after what had been at first amusing was beginning to get very serious, and all is well. The underplot, which is of inferior interest, consists of the scampish tricks of the Doctor's servant, one Pinchbeck (Mr. Widdicombe), who chooses occasionally to personate his master, and has, under the Doctor's name, commenced a matrimonial agency office. Among the clients he obtains is a relative of the Waverleys, with more money than brains, Uncle Timothy (Mr. Ryder), who, although advanced in years, thinks he will solace his declining days with a wife, and advertises for one under the romantic sobriquet of Romeo. He is followed to town, however, by his sister, Mrs. Crabstick (Mrs. Weston), a widow of frightfully masculine appearance and temper, who is determined to save him from making a fool of himself. Pinchbeck mistakes her for another matrimonial candidate, and is inclined to marry her himself; while for her brother he destines Mrs. Waverley's maid, Perkins (Miss E. Honey), with whom he is in league. This underplot gives rise to some amusing scenes, but chiefly assists the main action of the plot owing to the fact of Perkins being in the habit of dressing in her mistress's clothes, and having once or twice in consequence been taken for Mrs. Waverley by her husband at exceedingly inopportune moments, when her behaviour was such as to support his opinion of his wife's infidelity. This personation of the Doctor is of course detected, and its detection is one of the means by which the whole mystery is unravelled; but in combination these two plots, though not a little improbable and occasionally a little farcical, give rise to scenes of irrepressible drollery. Mr. Brougham's long familiarity with the stage renders him perfectly at home in the matters of those stage scenes and surprises which, after all that is said against their legitimacy, go so far towards the success of the piece. The acting was good in each instance, as may be expected from the favourite names which were assigned to the respective parts. Mr. Brougham gave a thoroughly humorous and natural conception of the steady old Doctor, plunged unexpectedly, and against his will, into a vortex of intrigue and imminent wrong-doing which was totally alien to his nature. Mr. Jordan, who is a new importation from America, looked and dressed like a gentleman, and a little over-acted and over-mouthed his part. The Misses Leclercq were graceful and natural. Mr. Widdicombe's personation of the scheming servant was distinguished by all his talent and all his mannerism; and Mrs. Weston and Miss Honey made the most of their respective parts. The part of Uncle Timothy, which in the previous performances in America was found highly amusing, was scarcely made the most of by Mr. Ryder. Upon the whole, then, we are inclined to believe that the piece will meet with the warm reception and steady success to which, a little extravagance apart, its sterling merits fully entitle it.

## HAYMARKET.

Very few modern playgoers know more of the merits as a tragedian of the elder Booth, the contemporary of the great Kean, than can be derived from the contemporary criticism of which much survives, and is read at the present day; but the announcement that his son, who had made a reputation in America, was about to appear in this country in the part of *Shylock*, attracted considerable attention, and drew together a large audience. Eager as all are to welcome, whether from France, America, or elsewhere, a truly great Shakespearian actor, we fancy that few who saw Mr. Edwin Booth as *Shylock* would feel that he was the man to realize their hopes or expectations. We doubt not that Mr. Booth may be a talented and conscientious actor, but a conception of *Shylock* less scholarly and less to our taste we can scarcely conceive. Occasionally forcible we must admit it to have been, but it was wanting in breadth and in colouring, and was, upon the whole, mean and unworthy. There is in the character of *Shylock*, even amidst his defeat and degradation, a dignity which with Mr. Booth is totally wanting, and the place of which is ill supplied by a rage which always rants and "tears a passion to rags." If there is one character in which more than another it appears to us the intention of Shakespere is easy to read, it is *Shylock*. Throughout there is a burn-

ing hate and malice which scorches and seethes within, and finds continual utterance in words of the deepest bitterness and most pointed sarcasm, but, except in one or two instances where the emotion consequent upon the flight of his daughter, with its attendant shame and loss of property, gets the better of him, even after he has thrown off his mask of assumed servility, the violence of speech and of gesture of Mr. Booth are as inappropriate as was the whining which disfigured Mr. Macready's *Othello*. In the trial scene *Shylock* himself addresses *Gratiano*:

"Till thou canst rail the seal from off my bond,  
Thou hast offend'd at thy lungs to speak so loud."

And this alone might, we think, suffice to prove, were it not apparent throughout the play, that the excessive mouthing and vehemence are misplaced. Did we choose to point to every opportunity that was overlooked, and every speech that jarred upon our feelings, the length of this notice might be indefinitely extended; but we would point out that in the trial scene, where the Jew first learns that the law allows no "drop of Christian blood," the sudden and complete revulsion of feeling is as untrue to nature as is all the previous intemperate bluster. The conviction of the defeat of a lifelong project of revenge will not be flashed with instantaneous conviction into his mind, but is calculated at first to benumb the faculties; and as *Portia*'s address is slowly enunciated, instead of the suddenly dropped knife and immediate assumption of abject and impotent despair, the bearing of the Jew should be that of one who doubts what he hears, upon whose mind the conviction of defeat is at length forced with a shudder of dismay, but who yet can scarcely divest himself of the idea that he is the victim of some horrible nightmare. Again, in the third scene of the first act, where *Shylock* having proposed, in what he calls "a merry sport," the forfeiture of the pound of flesh as the consequence of the non-fulfilment of the bond, to which *Antonio* consents, *Bassanio* says:—

"You shall not seal to such a bond for me;  
I'll rather dwell in my necessity;"

whereupon *Shylock* breaks out:—

"O, father Abraham, what these Christians are!  
Whose own hard dealings teaches them suspect  
The thoughts of others;"

palpably in order to persuade the friends that they were not to misinterpret what was intended as an act of kindness and generosity; whereas Mr. Booth, by delivering this as an aside, converts it into a paltry juggling attempt on the part of *Shylock* at self-deception. How utterly untrue to the nature of the Jew is this, we need not point out; nor will we dwell upon further misconceptions of the same nature. As regards the "get-up," we must protest against the absence of beard. *Antonio* could scarcely have "voiced his rheum" upon the beard of Mr. Booth. Altogether, we think this *Shylock* is a failure, and we hope that Mr. Booth will shortly afford us an opportunity of noticing him in some other and less exacting part, in which our opinion may, and we believe will, be more favourable, than we can conscientiously bestow on this unfortunate experiment.

As regards the general cast of the piece, we cannot speak well of it; and regret to see our favourite Haymarket troupe to such disadvantage. As Mr. Buckstone himself said, in his late benefit-address, "Comedy alone seems to thrive in the Haymarket;" but the main element in "The Merchant of Venice" is not comedy, although the play is included among the comedies. It is one of that order of plays which the Elizabethan age called *tragi-comedies*, and which included many of the best dramatic compositions of that epoch. At any rate, the tragic element in this instance prevails in importance far over the comic. Mr. Rogers's good-humoured face was obliged to assume a preternatural solemnity in the part of *Antonio*, which occasionally became ridiculous from its intensity. Mr. Howe's *Bassanio*, as well as some of the other characters in the piece, reminded one irresistibly of the heroes of Richardsonian melodrama. Mr. Villiers, as *Lorenzo*, was tolerable; and Mr. Farren, as *Gratiano*, scarcely so. Mrs. C. Young's *Portia*, was distinctly the most effective and best conception of any in the play; but even in that

there was something to be desired. Miss Oliver was not well suited to *Veronica*, and Miss Lindley looked the character of *Jessica* better than she acted. Mr. Buckstone's *Lancelot Gobbo* was amusing enough, if not eminently Shakespearian.

#### THE THEATRES.

A new play from the French, "Jack-of-all-Trades," was brought out at the Olympic Theatre on Thursday evening, instead of Monday as at first announced. The many novelties that have been produced during the last week compel us to defer any notice of this play till our next number; for the same reason we also postpone any notice of Mr. Byron's burlesque of "Esmeralda and her Sensation Goat," which was produced on Monday evening last at the Strand with great success. Mr. G. V. Brooke's appearance at Drury Lane is fixed for the 28th instant, instead of the 23rd, as we were wrong in asserting in our last number. The St. James's Theatre will open on the 14th, under the able management of Mr. Alfred Wigan. Mlle. Albina di Rhona has taken the Soho Theatre, which is now being rebuilt, and will shortly open.

#### MISCELLANEA.

At the Theatre Royal of Brussels, "Les Diamants de la Couronne," by Auber, has been revived, Mme. Mayer occupying the rôle of *Caterina*, and M. Jourdan that of *Henrique de Sandaval*. At the Opera, Mme. Gennetier has made her debut in "Le Caid," but her reception has not been very favourable.

M. Meyerbeer's grand opera "Les Huguenots" has been performed at Paris, M. and Mme. Gueymard reappearing respectively as *Raoul* and *Valentine*. M. Obin took the part of *Marcel*, and M. Cazaux that of *St. Bris*.

M. Roger is re-engaged for the Opéra Comique, but is prevented by indisposition from appearing at present on the stage. Mme. Ugalde has returned also, and appeared in "L'Etoile du Nord." A new comedy, in three acts, "Le Revers de la Médaille," has been produced at the Odéon; it has been favourably received.

In the Belgian September Fêtes, music appears to have occupied a prominent place. Among the novelties performed was a new concerto, by M. Vieuxtemps, on Grétry's air, "Oh peut-on être mieux qu'au sein de sa famille?" This performance was enthusiastically received. The overture to an unedited opera of M. Benoit, entitled "Le Roi des Aulnes," was also performed. Several open-air concerts were given, with the success of which, however, boisterous weather considerably interfered.

Amongst the manifold developments and convulsions now going on in the region of newspapers consequent upon the abolition of the duty, we may mention that a journal of politics, art, and literature, which has of late excited some small attention in the world, *The Oriental Budget*, is about to change its name, and become *The Literary Budget*. The reason assigned by the publishers for this alteration is, that it finds its way to every British colony, and circulates as well a large number in England. "It is obvious, therefore," add they, "that the title 'Oriental' has now become a misnomer." We may remind them, however, that "Literary" is itself rather a misnomer for a journal which professes to treat of politics also, and the current number of which contains articles, and those tolerably elaborate, on "Cotton Supply," "The War in New Zealand," "Changes in India," and so on. We admit that the journal is conducted with considerable energy and skill, but we must say that the assumption of this new title neither does justice to the variety of the contents, nor is a fair guide to the public. However, everything seems to be considered fair in the present rush of competition.

A convenient means of watching the progress of the International Exhibition is afforded at the Polytechnic Institution by photographs exhibited on the disk, as from time to time they are furnished by the Messrs. Birnsting, who, it is stated, have purchased at a cost of £7000 the sole right to photograph objects in connection with the Exhibition.

Just now, the curious may be rewarded by discovering spots on the sun, which are, at present, more than usually discernible.

M. Moreau has reported to the Academy of Sciences that he has succeeded in collecting the electricity of the torpedo by means of an electro-scope and gold condenser.

There seems some chance of the drudgery of verbatim reporting being, in time, superseded:—*Phonography* is the name of a new art, by which it is believed the sounds employed in speech will be registered with an accuracy equal to photography. A Mr. Scott has already perfected an instrument which, in a degree, notes the inflexions of the voice, and he is now engaged in developing his art, so as to invent a surface sufficiently sensitive to receive every diversity of utterance, at which stage, some method will have to be adopted to give a certain value and meaning to every curve and mark, so as to form a key to this mechanical shorthand. Difficult as are the results yet to be achieved, those who remember the blotches which were the photographs when that art was first practised, will not believe it impossible for Mr. Scott, who has already done so much, to perfect the apparatus he has invented.

The *Garden Oracle* for 1862, reviewing the progress of horticulture, and descriptive of new plants and flowers recently introduced, is announced for immediate publication by Messrs. Groombridge and Sons. This is the fourth issue of the work under the editorship of Mr. Shirley Hibberd, F.R.H.S.

In Messrs. Saunders, Otley, and Co.'s monthly list of new books we observe the following as announced for publication in the course of the present month:—*The Daughter of Dahur*, a poem, by Thomas Hood; *The International Policy of the Great Powers*, by Mr. Bailey, the well-known author of *Festus*; a *Life of Wallace*, by Rev. J. S. Watson; *Vanity Church*, a novel, in two volumes; and *Wheat and Tares*, a republication from *Fraser*.

Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. announce, amongst other works, reprints of Mr. Thackeray's *Four Georges* and *Lovel the Widower*; *The Correspondence of Leigh Hunt*, in two vols., edited by his son; *Narrative of the North China Campaign* of 1860, containing personal experiences of Chinese character, and of the moral and social condition of the country, together with a description of the interior of Peking, by Robert Swinhoe, of H.M.'s Consular Service in China, Staff Interpreter to Sir Hope Grant during the Campaign; and *The Early Italian Poets, from Civallo d'Alcamo to Dante Alighieri* (1100, 1200, 1300), in the original metres, together with Dante's *Vita Nuova*, translated by D. G. Rossetti,—part 1, poets chiefly before Dante; part 2, Dante and his circle.

M. Abel de Pujol, a well-known French painter, many of whose religious or historical works are preserved in the churches or national collections of France, has died at an advanced age. He was member of the Institute, officer of the Legion of Honour, and Member of the Académie des Beaux Arts.

M. de la Villemarqué, well known for his works on the romances of the Round Table and other kindred subjects, has published a new work, under the title of *Myrdhinn, ou l'Enchanteur Merlin*.

The historian Schlosser, author of the *History of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries to the Fall of the French Empire*, and of other important historical works, has died at Heidelberg, aged upwards of ninety years.

The *Gazette de Cologne* announces the death of the architect M. Ernest Frederic Zarnier, at the age of sixty years; to M. Zarnier is due the completion of the great cathedral of Cologne.

The new work of M. Guizot, it is expected, will be issued on the 10th of October; the title will be *L'Eglise et la Société Chrétienne*; the views of M. Guizot, as we have already notified, are opposed to Italian unity, and he deems the temporal power of the Pope necessary not only to Catholicism but to civilization.



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September, 1861. JOSEPH MARSH, Secretary.

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